

2014 REPORT TO CONGRESS

ON THE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST AND
RECUSAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS AND
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEES

AND

ON APPORTIONMENT OF MEMBERSHIP
FOR REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 302(b)(2)(B) AND SECTION 302(j)(9) OF THE
MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

PREPARED BY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

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A. BACKGROUND

This document is the first in a series that will combine the reporting requirements of Section 302(b)(2)(B) and Section 302(j)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) into one comprehensive report on the activities of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and their Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs). Previous versions of these reports were filed and completed separately.

This report 1) assesses the efforts and actions taken by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) and the Councils in 2014 to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 2) assesses the annual apportionment of Council membership and discusses significant fishery management issues and related actions for 2014.

Section 302(j)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress on action taken by the Secretary and the Councils to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including identifying any conflict of interest problems with respect to the Councils and SSCs and recommendations for addressing any such problems.

Section 302(b)(2)(B) requires the Secretary to report annually to Congress on the achievement, to the extent practicable, of a “fair and balanced apportionment, on a rotating or other basis, of the active participants (or their representatives) in the commercial and recreational fisheries under the jurisdiction of [each Regional Fishery Management] Council.”

The Magnuson-Stevens Act established eight Regional Fishery Management Councils: New England (NEFMC), Mid-Atlantic (MAFMC), South Atlantic (SAFMC), Gulf of Mexico (GMFMC), Caribbean (CFMC), Pacific (PFMC), North Pacific (NPFMC), and Western Pacific (WPFMC). Councils prepare and submit fishery management plans (FMPs) to the Secretary for fisheries under Council authority that require conservation and management, and any amendments necessary to manage the fisheries consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

There are 114 voting members on the eight Councils. The voting members of each Council include the principal state official (or the official’s designee) with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise in each constituent state, who is appointed by the governor; the regional administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the geographic area concerned (or the regional administrator’s designee); and members required to be appointed by the Secretary in accordance with Sections 302(b)(2) and (5) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In addition, non-voting members represent the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of State, and the Marine Fisheries Commissions.

Additionally, each Council is required to establish and appoint members to an SSC to provide the Councils, in their individual capacity, ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, including recommendations for acceptable biological catch, preventing overfishing, maximum sustainable yield, and achieving rebuilding targets; and reports on stock status and health, bycatch, habitat status, social and economic impacts of management measures, and sustainability of fishing practices. Members of the SSCs are federal and state employees, academics, or independent experts with scientific or technical credentials and experience who assist, in their individual capacity, the Councils in the evaluation of biological and other scientific information on issues that come before the Council.

PART I: DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST AND RECUSAL REQUIREMENTS

B. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND RECUSALS

Council nominees, Council members, and members of Scientific and Statistical Committees must file a Statement of Financial Interests to fulfill the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This financial information must be disclosed on the NOAA Form 88-195, Statement of Financial Interests. It is unlawful for a Council member to knowingly and willfully fail to disclose, or to falsely disclose, any financial interest as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, or to knowingly vote on a Council decision in violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Section 302(j)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires “affected individuals”¹ (defined in Section 302(j)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act) to disclose any financial interest held by the individual, the spouse, minor child, or partner of that individual; and any organization (other than the Council) in which that individual is serving as an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee in any harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activity that is being, or will be, undertaken within any fishery over which a Council has jurisdiction, or with respect to an individual or organization with a financial interest in such activity. Disclosure of financial interests will also include stocks, ownership interest, or employment with any entity that engages in or that provides services to someone engaged in any harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activity.

An individual who is nominated by the governor of a state for appointment as a voting member of a Council and before appointment by the Secretary must file a Statement of Financial Interests with the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries 1 month after nomination by the governor. An affected individual who is a voting member of a Council, appointed by the Secretary in accordance with Section 302(b)(2) or (b)(5) who is not subject to disclosure and recusal requirements under the laws of an Indian tribal government, must file a Statement of Financial Interests within 45 days of taking office with the executive director of the Council, and must file an update with the executive director of the Council within 30 days of the time any such financial interest is acquired or substantially changed and by February 1 of each year.

Affected individuals must disclose any financial interests on NOAA Form 88-195, Statement of Financial Interests. This form is currently available at:
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/councils/financial_disclosure/financial_disclosure.html

Guidance on reporting and filing procedures for complying with financial disclosure requirements are found at

¹ “Affected individual” is also defined in NOAA regulations at 50 CFR 600.235.

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/councils/financial_disclosure/financial_disclosure.html and at 50 CFR 600.235.

The executive director of the Council will provide copies of all Statements of Financial Interests to the NMFS Regional Administrator, the Regional Attorney who advises the Council, and the NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries. Statements of Financial Interests will be kept on file by each Council, made available on the Council internet site, be available for public inspection at the Council offices during reasonable hours, and be kept on file by the NMFS Regional Office for use in reviewing determinations under Section 302(j)(7).

An individual who is appointed to an SSC in accordance with Section 302(g)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act must file a Statement of Financial Interests with the Regional Administrator. The Regional Administrator shall maintain on file the Financial Interest Forms of all SSC members for at least 5 years after the expiration of that individual's term on the SSC. Councils may also keep a copy on file for their own purposes.

Voting Requirements and Financial Conflicts of Interest

An affected individual required to disclose a financial interest under 302(j)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act shall not vote on a Council decision that would have a “significant and predictable effect” on a financial interest disclosed on his or her Statement of Financial Interests. In accordance with Section 302(j)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, a Council decision shall be considered to have a significant and predictable effect on a financial interest if there is a close causal link between the decision and an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit” to the member’s financial interest. In accordance with regulations at 50 CFR 600.235(c)(3), an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit” means a quantifiable positive or negative impact with regard to a matter likely to affect a fishery or sector of the fishery in which the affected individual has a significant interest, as indicated by:

- (a) a greater than 10 percent interest in the total harvest or the sector of the fishery under consideration by the Council;
- (b) a greater than 10 percent interest in the marketing or processing of the total harvest or the sector of the fishery under consideration by the Council; or
- (c) full or partial ownership of more than 10 percent of the vessels using the same gear type within the fishery, or the sector of the fishery, under consideration by the Council.

Although an affected individual may not vote, he or she may participate in Council deliberations relating to the decision after notifying the Council of the voting recusal and identifying the financial interest that would be affected.

At the request of an affected individual, or at the initiative of an appropriate designated official,² the designated official shall make a determination for the record as to whether a Council decision would have a “significant and predictable effect”³ on a financial interest. Within 10 days,⁴ any Council member may submit a written request to the Secretary to review any determination made. The review of the determination must be completed within 30 days. Any affected individual who does not vote on a Council decision in accordance with Section 302(j)(7) may state for the record how he or she would have voted.

Though considered an affected individual, a member of an SSC is not subject to the voting restrictions under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. It is expected that SSC members maintain a high standard of conduct consistent with Department of Commerce Ethics rules and Council procedures. Questions regarding conflict of interest requirements for SSC members should be addressed to the NOAA Regional Attorney who advises the Councils.

C. ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND RECUSALS

To gather information needed to meet the requirements of Section 302(j)(9) to provide this report, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries requested that each NMFS Regional Administrator and Council provide the following information on efforts in 2014 to meet the requirements of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act:

(a) Action taken by each Council on implementing the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including Committees and Advisory Panels, and Disclosure of Financial Interest and Recusal. Following is a summary of each Council’s actions.

The NEFMC continues to receive and make available to the public completed Statement of Financial Interests forms for Council members appointed by the Secretary. The Council member Statements of Financial Interests forms are on file with the Council and posted on the Council’s website. The Council requests annual Statement of Financial Interests forms from the SSC members and forwards all completed forms to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries to be kept on file by NMFS.

The MAFMC continues to receive and make available to the public completed Statement of Financial Interests forms for Council members appointed by the Secretary. All information is

²Designated official is a person with expertise in federal conflict-of-interest requirements who is designated by the Secretary, in consultation with the Council, to attend Council meetings and make determinations under paragraph 302(7)(B) of the Act. In practice, this has been the NOAA Regional Attorney who advises the Council.

³ 50 CFR 600.235(f)

⁴ 50 CFR 600.235(g)(1)

posted on the Council's website. The Council requests annual Statement of Financial Interests forms from the SSC members and forwards all completed forms to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries to be kept on file by NMFS.

The CFMC has incorporated the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act into its procedures. Annual Statements of Financial Interests are requested from SSC members and are available at the CFMC website. Statements of Financial Interests for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary are also posted on the CFMC's internet site and are available at each Council meeting.

The SAFMC continues to receive and make available to the public completed Statement of Financial Interests forms for Council members appointed by the Secretary. The Council member Statement of Financial Interests forms are on file with the Council and posted on the Council's website. The Council requests annual Statement of Financial Interest forms from the SSC members and forwards all completed forms to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries to be kept on file by NMFS.

The GMFMC continues to receive and make available to the public completed Statement of Financial Interest forms for Council members appointed by the Secretary. The Council member Statement of Financial Interest forms are on file with the Council and on the Council's website. The Council requests annual Statement of Financial Interest forms from the SSC members and forwards all completed forms to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries to be kept on file by NMFS.

The PFMC requested annual Statement of Financial Interests from its Council members and SSC members. Statements of Financial Interests for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary continue to be available at the Council office and Council meetings and posted on the PFMC's website.

The NPFMC continues to receive and make available to the public completed Statements of Financial Interests for Council members appointed by the Secretary. The Council requested annual Statements of Financial Interests from its SSC members. Completed Statements of Financial Interests for SSC members have been provided to NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, to be kept on file. The NPFMC has also posted SSC Statements of Financial Interests on its website. Statements of Financial Interests for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary are posted on the NPFMC's website and are available at each Council meeting.

The WPFMC posted Statements of Financial Interests for voting council members appointed by the Secretary on its website and they are available for public viewing at each Council meeting. The WPFMC requested annual Statements of Financial Interests from its SSC members. Completed Statements of Financial Interests for SSC members have been provided to NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, to be kept on file.

(b) Documentation of any time a voting Council member recuses himself or herself from a vote, the reason given, and any other relevant circumstances, per 50 CFR 600.235(d).

NEFMC: At the January 2014 Council meeting, Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley recused herself during voting on a series of motions related to measures in Framework 25 to the Sea Scallop FMP addressing specifications and other management measures for the scallop fishery. Ms. Nickell-Tooley is employed by two companies that own scallop limited access vessels that do not exceed the 10 percent threshold. However, those companies jointly own a processing company that does process greater than 10 percent of the scallop fishery harvest, thus constituting an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

At the April 2014 Council meeting, Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley recused herself during voting on a series of motions related to measures in Framework 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP addressing net slippage provisions and other measures for the herring fishery. Ms. Nickell-Tooley is employed by companies that operate herring vessels that exceed 10 percent of total herring landings, thus constituting an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

At the June 2014 Council meeting, Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley recused herself during a vote on a Motion to request NMFS take emergency action to adjust the 2014 accountability measure for the sub-ACL of haddock assigned to the Atlantic herring fishery. Ms. Nickell-Tooley is employed by companies that operate herring vessels that exceed 10 percent of total herring landings, thus constituting an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

At the November 2014 Council meeting, Ellen Goethel and Peter Kendall both recused themselves during a vote on three motions related to measures in the fishing year 2015-2017 specifications for the whiting (small-mesh multispecies) fishery. Ms. Goethel recused herself from final votes related to the northern stock of red hake because her husband’s landings of northern red hake may exceed 10 percent of the total landings of that stock, which would constitute an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.” Mr. Kendall recused himself of motions related to the whiting fishery regarding the allocation of northern red hake because he owns a company that buys and sells amounts of northern red hake that exceed 10 percent of the total landings of that stock which would constitute an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

At the November 2014 Council meeting, Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley recused herself during votes on four motions related to measures in Framework 53 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP that would establish ACLs and sub-ACLs for groundfish stocks. Ms. Nickell-Tooley recused for reasons related to her employer’s involvement in the herring and sea scallop fisheries.

At the November 2014 Council meeting, Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley recused herself during votes on a series of motions related to measures in Framework 26 to the Sea Scallop FMP addressing

specifications and other management measures for the scallop fishery. Ms. Nickell-Tooley recused for reasons related to her employer's involvement in the sea scallop fisheries.

MAFMC: At the April 2014 Council meeting Laurie Nolan recused herself during votes on a motion to adopt 2015 tilefish specifications. Ms. Nolan is the onshore manager for two commercial tilefish fishing vessels in New York, which would constitute an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit."

At the April 2014 Council meeting Laurie Nolan recused herself during votes on a motion to initiate a framework adjustment to address several management issues in the tilefish fishery. Ms. Nolan is the onshore manager for two commercial tilefish fishing vessels in New York, which would constitute an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit."

(c) Documentation of any Council member requests for determination for the need for a recusal by that Council member, and the results of that determination, per 50 CFR 600.235(f)(1).

NEFMC: Council member John Quinn requested a determination from NOAA General Counsel related to his role on the Scallop Research Set Aside committee; this request was under review at the time data for this report was collected.

(d) Documentation of any requests for determination on recusals of a Council member based on information provided to a designated official and the results of that determination, per 50 CFR 600.235(f)(3).

NEFMC: Council member Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley requested that NOAA General Counsel reconsider the determination that she must recuse herself from Council decisions regarding the sea scallop fishery; this request was under review at the time data for this report was collected.

(e) Documentation of any requests for review of a determination and the results of that review per 50 CFR 600.235(g).

The Councils indicate no occurrences.

(f) Any circumstances where a Council member's NOAA Form 88-195, Statement of Financial Interests, was found to be in error, the circumstances relevant to the error, and its resolution.

The Councils indicate no occurrences.

(g) Any instances of Council member resignations or removal due to concerns about disclosure of financial interests or recusal and circumstances relevant to each occurrence.

The Councils indicate no occurrences.

(h) Any similar instances to the above regarding SSC members.

PFMC: At a June 2014 SSC Meeting, Dr. Todd Lee voluntarily recused himself from votes related to a Fixed Gear Sablefish Catch Share Program Review, Including Federal Electronic Fish Tickets for Open Access Sablefish Deliveries and on votes related to Fisheries in 2015-2016 and Beyond: Harvest Specifications, Management Measures, and Amendment 24. Dr. Lee's staff did the socioeconomic analysis on these documents.

At an April 2014 SSC Meeting, Dr. Todd Lee voluntarily recused himself from votes related to Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection for 2014. Dr. Lee contributed to the IO-PAC analysis. Additionally, Dr. Todd Lee voluntarily recused himself from votes on Biennial Specifications for Fisheries in 2015-2016 and Beyond, as Dr. Lee contributed to the net revenue projections.

At a March 2014 SSC Meeting, Dr. André Punt voluntarily recused himself from votes related to Pacific Sardine Temperature Parameter Review. Dr. Punt was a contributing author of the review.

Action taken by the Secretary and the Councils

(1) On January 16, 2013, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) issued a report that, in part, provided three recommendations for NOAA that would assist in strengthening policy guidance on financial disclosures by Council voting members, with an emphasis on how NOAA intends to handle specific consequences for conflicts or potential conflicts it identifies. On April 12, 2013, NOAA finalized an action plan that summarized the corrective actions NOAA would take in addressing the findings and recommendations in the OIG report, including the three recommendations referenced above. In 2014, NMFS completed actions in response to the three recommendations, which included updated guidance for disclosing financial interests and a revised financial disclosure form, and a policy and procedural directive to strengthen and clarify review of financial disclosure forms and conflicts of interest.

In March 2014, NMFS finalized a revised reporting form and guidance for financial disclosures. Section 302(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the disclosure of any financial interest in harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activity that is being, or will be, undertaken within any fishery over which the Council concerned has jurisdiction. The information required to be reported must be disclosed on NOAA's Statement of Financial Interests form, which was updated to be clearer, outline the regulatory requirements better, and provide better up-front financial interest information to the public, Councils, Regions, and General Counsel. Additionally, the updated form clearly identifies the consequences of

omitting a disclosure declaration or making a false declaration. The form may be found here: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/councils/financial_disclosure/financial_disclosure_form.pdf

In September 2014, NMFS published new policy and procedural directives for Fishery Management Council Financial Disclosures. The purpose of these documents is to strengthen the policy guidance on the review of financial disclosures by appointed members of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, as recommended by the DOC OIG. These documents clarify and outline the authorities and responsibilities of NMFS, NOAA Office of General Counsel (GC), and Regional Sections and Councils relating to Council member financial disclosures, which are within those responsibilities established in implementing regulations (See 50 CFR 600.235).

The directives establish a vetting process to review the completeness and accuracy of information in nominees' and members' disclosure forms. Separately from the process for submission and review of financial disclosures described above, NMFS also provided a brief clarification of the process by which NMFS, NOAA GC, and the Councils identify Council members' conflicts of interest within the procedural directive. The policy directive can be found here: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/documents/01/01-116.pdf>. The procedural directive can be found here: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/documents/01/116/01-116-01.pdf>.

(2) The Councils continue to make Statements of Financial Interests for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary available for public viewing at Council offices and at Council meetings at reasonable hours, and available on Council websites.

(3) NMFS continues to ensure Statements of Financial Interests are completed by SSC members and provided to NMFS to be kept on file.

(4) NMFS continues to ensure that all Statements of Financial Interests completed by voting Council members appointed by the Secretary are posted on Council internet sites, and ensure that copies are forwarded to appropriate NMFS offices and NOAA GC. Both NMFS and the Councils want to ensure their members are well aware of their responsibilities for financial disclosure and recusal and the benefits of those disclosures allowing them to fully participate in Council activities. For those reasons, because the Statement of Financial Interests form has been revised, and in the interest of transparency, NOAA GC will regularly communicate the existing policies and procedures to all NMFS employees, Council members, and Council staff by conducting an annual briefing of financial disclosure requirements. Additionally, these requirements are addressed at the training of all new Council members, as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

PART II: APPORTIONMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

D. FAIR AND BALANCED COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that members of each Council appointed by the Secretary must be individuals who are “knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management, or the commercial or recreational harvest, of the fishery resources of the geographical area concerned.” Pursuant to Section 302(b)(2)(B) the Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall “ensure a fair and balanced apportionment...in the commercial and recreational fisheries under the jurisdiction of the Council.”

The consideration of balance and fairness between commercial and recreational fishing sectors is a required element in the Secretary’s appointment of Council members. Equally important is the stewardship responsibilities of Councils and the appointment of individuals who can work collectively with other members to achieve the conservation standards under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Successful nominees, therefore, are those who are qualified in accordance with the provisions at 50 CFR 600.215 and who will best contribute to the stewardship of marine fishery resources.⁵ Generally, the most qualified nominees are those who:

1. Have achieved a level of leadership in promoting stewardship of the marine fishery resources under the jurisdiction of the Councils to which they would be appointed; and
2. Participate in, or represent commercial fishermen participating in, one or more commercial fisheries under the Councils’ jurisdictions (including aquaculture); or
3. Participate in, or represent recreational fishermen participating in, one or more recreational fisheries under the Councils’ jurisdictions; or
4. Are otherwise experienced and/or knowledgeable in leadership of organizations whose members participate in a fishery or in management and conservation of natural resources, or are representatives of consumers, teachers, journalists, writers, consultants, lawyers, or marine fishery researchers.

Before evaluating each Council with respect to fairness and balance, the Secretary must first have a standard for such judgments. NMFS has addressed the requirement by reasoning that, in the ideal case, voting members should be individuals with prescribed qualifications related to commercial or to recreational fishing within the Council’s area of jurisdiction, or individuals with qualifications in one of the “other” related fishing interest categories, who are personally committed to meeting the Council’s trusteeship responsibilities for living marine resources.

For the purposes of this Report, three general fishing interest sectors are discussed: the commercial fishing sector, the recreational fishing sector, and an “other” sector. The “other”

⁵ The qualifications for appointment are derived from Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and are also included in regulations contained at 50 CFR 600.215.

sector is made up of appointed members with knowledge of and experience in biological, economic, or social sciences; environmental or ecological matters; consumer affairs; and associated fields.

Nominees may be categorized as participating in more than one of the three general fishing interest sectors. In these cases, NMFS' determination about a nominee's primary interest sector is the result of NMFS' interpretation of: 1) supporting background information provided by the nominating governor; 2) background information provided by the nominee, reflecting the nominee's demonstrated principal participation; and 3) other supplemental information provided.

E. APPORTIONMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council members are appointed from among qualified individuals nominated by the governors of the Councils' states in each Council's region and, in the case of tribal representation on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), from among representatives nominated by the appropriate tribal governments. Appointed members serve 3-year terms and can be reappointed to serve three consecutive terms. A major factor in meeting the requirement to balance membership is the role of the governors in nominating qualified individuals who are knowledgeable regarding conservation and management or the commercial or recreational harvest of fishery resources. The process works best when governors provide the Secretary with a variety of highly qualified nominees who meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

For governor-nominated seats, the Secretary will select an appointee for an obligatory seat (state-specific) from the list of qualified nominees submitted by the governor of that state. In filling expiring at-large seats (regional), the Secretary will select an appointee from the list of all qualified candidates submitted by regional state governors.

In 2014, the Secretary announced the appointment or reappointment of 23 voting obligatory and at-large Council members: 22 appointments were made as part of the annual process and one appointment was made as a result of an out-of-cycle vacancy. Table 1 shows the current totals in the distribution of Secretary-appointed Council voting members by interest sector for 2012, 2013, and 2014. In June 2014, seven members were appointed from the commercial fishing sector, seven members were appointed from the recreational fishing sector, and eight members were appointed from the "other" sector.

Because of the limited number of Council seats, not all sectors and localities can be represented on each Council. In addition, the Secretary's appointments are constrained by the nominations submitted by the governors. Within these parameters, the Secretary aims to select appointees

who possess the breadth of knowledge and experience to collectively provide a balance on each Council, and who pursue their Council roles as stewards and trustees of living resources. To the extent practicable, the appointments also seek to rotate membership, thereby distributing participation among all sectors of the fisheries-specific actions. The distribution of representation on each Council is also adjusted, where possible, to achieve a balance of interest sectors or to provide needed experience to address changing priorities.

Where sector or gear components are not represented on a Council, membership on the various Council advisory panels and committees is also crucial to providing those sectors with representation during Council deliberations, as well as with a voice on specific issues of interest.

Women and Minority Representation

Ten women, appointed by the Secretary, currently serve on the Councils. NMFS continues to encourage governors to nominate qualified female and minority candidates.

F. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES

Table 1 shows the current appointed Council members sorted numerically by fishing sector. Table 2 lists the 30 Council members whose terms will expire on August 10, 2015. Table 3 sorts the 30 Council members into the three general fishing sector categories. The Magnuson-Stevens Act prohibits the reappointment of Council members to a fourth consecutive term. Four of the 30 members whose terms expire in 2015 have served three consecutive terms and thus will be ineligible to be renominated for a fourth.

**TABLE 1: CURRENT APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS SORTED NUMERICALLY
BY FISHING SECTOR INTERESTS (2012-2014)**

	Year	Commercial	Recreational	“Other”	Total
NEFMC	2012	7	3	2	12
	2013	7	2	3	12
	2014	6	2	4	12
MAFMC	2012	4	5	4	13
	2013	4	5	4	13
	2014	4	5	4	13
SAFMC	2012	3	4	1	8
	2013	4	3	1	8
	2014	4	4	0	8
GMFMC	2012	4	4	3	11
	2013	4	4	3	11
	2014	4	4	3	11
CFMC	2012	2	0	2	4
	2013	2	1	1	4
	2014	1	2	1	4
PFMC	2012	2	3	4	9
	2013	3	3	3	9
	2014	3	3	3	9
NPFMC	2012	5	1	1	7
	2013	5	1	1	7
	2014	5	1	1	7
WPFMC	2012	2	2 ⁶	3	7
	2013	2	3	3	8
	2014	2	2	4	8
ALL COUNCILS	2012	29	22	20	71
	2013	32	21	19	72
	2014	29	23	20	72

³In August 2012, an out-of-cycle vacancy occurred on the Western Pacific Council. The seat was unfilled until the 2013 appointment cycle.

TABLE 2: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2015
GROUPED BY OBLIGATORY OR AT-LARGE APPOINTMENT

OBLIGATORY MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED		AT-LARGE MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED
<u>New England</u> M. McKenzie/CT (O) T. Alexander/ME (C) D. Preble/RI (R) J. Quinn/MA (O)	2012 2012 2006 2012	1 1 3* 1		V. Balzano/ME (C)	2012	1
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u> C. Zeman/NJ (O) J. Deem/VA (R)	2009 2012	2 1		P. Pate Jr./NC (O) A. Dilernia/NY (R)	2009 2012	2 1
<u>South Atlantic</u> B. Hartig, III/FL (O) E. Bowen/GA (R)	2009 2013	2 1**		C. Phillips/GA (C) A. Beckwith/NC (R)	2009 2012	2 1
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u> J. Greene, Jr./AL (R) J. Sanchez/FL (C) C. Matens/LA (R)	2009 2012 2012	2 1 1		H. Pearce/LA (C) W. Perret/MS (O)	2006 2012	3* 1
<u>Caribbean</u> C. Farchette/VI (O)	2009	2		E. Pineiro-Soler/PR (R)	2012	1
<u>Pacific</u> D. Crabbe/CA (C) D. Lowman/OR (O) D. Sones/Tribal (O)	2009 2009 2006	2 2 3*		W. Brizendine, II/CA (R) D. Myer/WA (C)	2009 2006	2 3*
<u>North Pacific</u> H. Hull/AK (C) R. Dersham/AK (R) C. Cross/WA (C)	2009 2008 2012	2 2 1		There are no at-large seats on the North Pacific Council.		
<u>Western Pacific</u> M. Duenas/GU (C) M. Goto/HI (C)	2012 2012	1 1		There are no available at-large seats on the Western Pacific Council in 2015.		
20 Obligatory Members				10 At-Large Members		

C = Commercial Sector

R = Recreational Sector

O = Other Sector

*These members have served three consecutive terms; therefore, they are ineligible by law for reappointment to a fourth consecutive term. ** This member was appointed to replace a member who left during their term. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, a term in which an individual is appointed to replace a member who left office during a term shall count as one full term if said term is longer than 18 months (See 50 CFR 600.210(a)).

**TABLE 3: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2015
GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES**

COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL	OTHER	TOTAL SEATS
<u>New England</u> Terry A. Alexander/ME Vincent M. Balzano/ME	David E. Preble/RI	Matthew G. McKenzie/CT John F. Quinn/MA	5
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>	Jeffery Deem/VA Anthony D. Dilernia/NY	Christopher J. Zeman/NJ Preston P. Pate Jr./NC	4
<u>South Atlantic</u> Charles M. Phillips/GA	Edward Z. Bowen/GA Anna B. Beckwith/NC	Benjamin C. Hartig, III/FL	4
<u>Gulf Council</u> Juan M. Sanchez/FL Harlon H. Pearce/LA	John R. Greene, Jr./AL Campo E. Matens/LA	William S. Perret/MS	5
<u>Caribbean</u>	Eugenio Pineiro-Soler/PR	Carlos F. Farchette/VI	2
<u>Pacific</u> David M. Crabbe/CA Dale D. Myer/WA	William L. Brizendine, II/CA	Dorothy M. Lowman/OR David B. Sones/Tribal	5
<u>North Pacific</u> Howard D. Hull/AK Craig A. Cross/WA	Robert E. Dersham/AK		3
<u>Western Pacific</u> Michael P. Duenas/GU Michael K. Goto/HI			2
TOTAL 11	TOTAL 10	TOTAL 9	TOTAL 30

G. SECRETARY'S 2013 APPOINTMENTS/2014 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following sections update Council appointment rosters, specify apportionment totals for Council members, discuss fishery management issues and challenges being addressed by each Council, and make Secretarial recommendations for future nomination and appointment considerations. The latter reflects information included in letters sent to the constituent state governors requesting nominees, consistent with regulations at 50 CFR 600.215. The governors are required to submit their nominees by March 15 of each year.

1. New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2014 for four NEFMC members. As a result of the 2014 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is six commercial, two recreational, and three "other," which reflects a change from seven commercial, two recreational, and three "other." The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the NEFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley/C
Elizabeth M.P. Etrie/O
Thomas Dempsey/C
Peter Kendall/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
Laura Ramsden/C
Reappointment
Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the NEFMC:

2014 NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (12 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	MCKENZIE, MATTHEW G.	CT	2015	O
O	ALEXANDER, TERRY A.	ME	2015	C
O	QUINN, JOHN F.	MA	2015	O
O	GOETHEL, ELLEN	NH	2016	C
O	PREBLE, DAVID E.	RI	2015	R
A	NICKELL-TOOLEY, MARY BETH	ME	2017	C
A	BALZANO, VINCENT M.	ME	2015	C

A	SISSENWINE, MICHAEL	MA	2016	O
A	ETRIE, ELIZABETH M. P.	MA	2017	O
A	PAPPALARDO, JOHN*	MA	2017	C
A	KENDALL, PETER T.	NH	2017	C
A	BLOUNT, FRANCIS W. JR.	RI	2016	R

*Note: Late in 2014, Mr. Dempsey resigned from the Council. This seat was filled in an out-of-cycle appointment by John Pappalardo/C in January 2015.

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2015:

1. Matthew G. McKenzie – other sector – obligatory seat (Connecticut)
2. Terry A. Alexander – commercial fishing sector – obligatory seat (Maine)
3. John F. Quinn – other sector – obligatory seat (Massachusetts)
4. David E. Preble – recreational fishing sector – obligatory seat (Rhode Island) (ineligible for reappointment due to term limits)
5. Vincent M. Balzano – commercial fishing sector – at large seat (Maine)

2015 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The stocks within the NEFMC's geographical area that are managed by the Council are primarily associated with commercial fisheries. Of the seven members whose terms do not expire in 2015, four are from the commercial harvesting sector, one is from the recreational fishing sector, and two are from the "other" sector. Members from the commercial harvesting sector have experience in the groundfish, scallop, herring, spiny dogfish, skate, whiting, and monkfish fisheries. The recreational fishing sector members have experience in the recreational fisheries for groundfish species managed by the Council as well as other marine recreational fisheries in the Northeast.

The five upcoming vacancies are from the "other," commercial, and recreational sectors. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial sector and the recreational sector. Also, governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the "other" sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The NEFMC is responsible for six Fishery Management Plans (FMPs): Northeast (NE) Multispecies, Atlantic Sea Scallop, Atlantic Herring, Deep-Sea Red Crab, Northeast Skates, and Atlantic Salmon. In addition, the NEFMC and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) are jointly responsible for two FMPs (Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish). The NEFMC has the lead responsibility for the Monkfish FMP and the MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the Spiny Dogfish FMP.

While species managed by the NEFMC are primarily commercial, the multispecies fishery has an important recreational component (party/charter and private vessels). The Atlantic salmon fishery is considered recreational, although possession of Atlantic salmon is prohibited in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under the Atlantic Salmon FMP, and there is no commercial or recreational fishery for Atlantic salmon in the EEZ. Management of all of the fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch. Fishing gear technology and selectivity are areas of great interest – to allow healthy stocks to be harvested at or near their optimum yields while protecting overfished and rebuilding stocks, particularly in the multispecies fishery. Also of concern are measures protecting marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

In 2014, the Council's management actions included:

- **Northeast (NE) Multispecies**

The Council continued development of Amendment 18, which will consider accumulation caps in the groundfish fishery and an inshore management program for the fishery. The Council completed Framework 51, which set specifications for the 2014-2015 fishery, and Framework 52, which made adjustments to the accountability measures for windowpane flounder; and substantially completed Framework 53, which will set specifications for 2015 and includes other measures to address the continued decline of Gulf of Maine cod.

- **Atlantic Sea Scallops**

The Council completed Framework 25, which set specifications for the 2014 fishery, and substantially completed Framework 26 to set specifications for the 2015 fishing year and address other issues in the scallop fishery. The Council completed a performance review of the Limited Access General Category (LAGC) scallop fleet.

- **Atlantic Herring**

The Council completed Framework 3, which set caps on the bycatch of river herring and shad, and developed Framework 4 to address catch accounting and net slippage issues in the herring fishery.

- **Monkfish**

The Council continued development of Amendment 6, which will consider catch share programs; completed Framework 8 to set specifications for the 2014-2016 fishery and make other management changes for the monkfish fishery; and initiated Framework 9 to address several issues that had previously been considered in Amendment 6. These actions are joint with the MAFMC.

- **Skates**

The Council completed Framework 2, which set specifications for the 2014-2015 fishing years.

- **Spiny Dogfish**
The Council took final action to recommend specifications for the 2014-2015 fishing years for spiny dogfish. This action was joint with the MAMFC, although the two Councils developed different recommendations.
- **Small-Mesh Multispecies (silver, offshore, and red hakes)**
The Council completed specifications for the 2015 and 2016 fishing years.
- **Habitat**
The Council continued development of an omnibus habitat amendment, which will amend the essential fish habitat (EFH) designations in all of the Council's FMPs and provide additional measures to protect habitat. The Council completed a public hearing draft of the amendment and began a series of public hearings and information sessions to gather public input on the amendment.
- **Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology**
The Council adopted a revised omnibus amendment for standardized bycatch reporting methodology. This action was joint with the MAFMC.
- **Other Actions**
The Council participated in the development of an omnibus amendment to streamline the regulations pertaining to vessel baselines and upgrade restrictions. This action is joint with the MAFMC.

Council priorities for 2015 include:

- Continue development of and complete Groundfish Amendment 18 to consider fleet diversity and accumulation limits.
- Develop specifications for stocks for 2016 and all other groundfish stocks for the 2016-2018 fishing years.
- Begin initial planning and work on multiyear priorities for recreational fisheries management and the 5-year review of catch shares under groundfish sectors.
- Prepare a framework adjustment to set specifications for the 2016 sea scallop fishery, including default measures for the 2017 fishing year.
- Develop a framework adjustment to modify sea scallop access areas to be consistent with the Council's final action on the omnibus EFH amendment.
- Complete an omnibus amendment to designate/redesignate EFH across all of the Council's FMPs, minimize adverse effects of fishing on EFH to the extent practicable, and modify groundfish closures, as deemed appropriate.
- Continue development of Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP to consider sectors and/or individual transferable quotas (ITQs) for the monkfish fishery and other management measures (joint with MAFMC).
- Complete Framework 9 to address several issues related to the management of the monkfish fishery (joint with MAFMC).

- Develop specifications for the Atlantic herring fishery for 2016-2018, including catch caps for river herring and shad.
- Develop specifications for the skate fishery for 2016-2017, and develop a framework adjustment to end overfishing on thorny and winter skates.
- Complete an omnibus amendment to provide for industry-funded monitoring programs in managed fisheries, and complete an amendment to address observer funding issues (joint with MAFMC).
- Initiate an action to consider a limited access program for the whiting fishery.
- Continue work on an omnibus deep-sea coral amendment.
- Consider actions to address localized depletion of inshore sea scallop areas and mitigate impacts to the LAGC scallop IFQ fishery.
- Initiate an amendment to consider control rules for the Atlantic herring fishery that account for herring's role as forage in the ecosystem.

2. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2014 for five MAFMC members. As a result of the 2014 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives was unchanged from four commercial, five recreational, and four “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the MAFMC remains unchanged. The reappointed members are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

John G. McMurray/R
G.W. Elliott/R
Howard King III/O
Francis Hemilright, Jr./C
Laurie A. Nolan/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
Reappointment
Reappointment
Reappointment
Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the MAFMC:

2014 MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (13 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	ANDERSON, LEE G.	DE	2016	O
O	KING, HOWARD J. III	MD	2017	O
O	HEMILRIGHT, FRANCIS D.	NC	2017	C
O	ZEMAN, CHRISTOPHER J.	NJ	2015	O
O	MCMURRAY, JOHN G.	NY	2017	R
O	ELLIOTT, G. WARREN	PA	2017	R
O	DEEM, JEFFREY	VA	2015	R
A	LINHARD, STEPHEN E.	MD	2016	R
A	PATE, PRESTON P. JR.	NC	2015	O
A	KAELIN, JEFFREY	NJ	2016	C
A	NOLAN, LAURIE A.	NY	2017	C
A	DILERNIA, ANTHONY D.	NY	2015	R
A	ROBINS, RICHARD B. JR.	VA	2016	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2015:

1. Christopher J. Zeman – other sector – obligatory seat (New Jersey)

2. Jeffery Deem – recreational fishing sector – obligatory seat (Virginia)
3. Preston P. Pate, Jr. – other sector – at-large seat (North Carolina)
4. Anthony D. Dilernia – recreational fishing sector – at large seat (New York)

2015 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the nine members whose terms do not expire in 2015, four are from the commercial sector, three are from the recreational sector, and two are from the “other” sector. The remaining commercial sector members’ experiences include harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are all rod-and-reel fishermen.

The four upcoming vacancies include two outgoing members from the recreational sector and two from the “other” sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the recreational sector and from the “other” sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The MAFMC is exclusively responsible for five Fishery Management Plans (FMPs): Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Surfclam and Ocean Quahog; Golden Tilefish; and Atlantic Bluefish. In addition, the MAFMC and the NEFMC are jointly responsible for two other FMPs (Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish). The MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the Spiny Dogfish FMP and the NEFMC has the lead responsibility for the Monkfish FMP.

Some of these fisheries are primarily commercial (e.g., surfclam, ocean quahog, tilefish, spiny dogfish, monkfish, squid, Atlantic mackerel, and butterfish), while others have significant recreational components (bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass). Management of all fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch.

In 2014, the Council’s management actions included:

- **Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass**
The Council reviewed 2015 specifications for these fisheries, including commercial management measures, and developed recreational management measures for these fisheries in 2015. The Council initiated a new amendment that will serve as a comprehensive review of the Summer Flounder FMP. The amendment will involve a review and update of the FMP’s goals and objectives and will consider changes to summer flounder management in both state and federal waters. The Council adopted a new framework adjustment to move the opening date of the recreational fishery for black sea bass to May 15 (from May 19).

- **Surfclams/Ocean Quahogs**

The Council approved a draft amendment to implement a cost recovery program for the surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries for public review. The Council also provided comments to NMFS on its proposed rule to collect additional information from entities that hold individual transferable quota (ITQ) in the surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries.

- **Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish**

The Council adopted 2015-2017 specifications and management measures for the Atlantic mackerel (2015 only), squid, and butterfish fisheries. The Council reconsidered its recommendations regarding Framework 9, which was initiated to discourage slippage events (slippage is the release of fish before observers can record it). The Council voted to recommend more stringent measures, including a requirement that vessels must vacate the area they are in following slippage events caused by mechanical issues, safety concerns, and incidental catch of dogfish.

- **Atlantic Bluefish**

The Council developed 2015 specifications for the recreational and commercial Atlantic bluefish fisheries.

- **Monkfish**

The Council initiated a framework adjustment jointly with the NEFMC to address several issues in the monkfish fishery. Work on Amendment 6 to the FMP was ongoing.

- **Tilefish**

The Council adopted golden tilefish management measures for the 2015-2017 fishing years. The Council also initiated a framework adjustment to make several changes to the administration of the tilefish fishery.

- **Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology**

The Council adopted a revised omnibus amendment for standardized bycatch reporting methodology jointly with the NEFMC.

- **Ecosystem**

The Council hosted a 1-day Climate Science and Fisheries Workshop. This was the first in a series of workshops that the Council has held to support the development of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) guidance document. This was followed by a 3-day workshop on East Coast climate change and fisheries governance. The purpose of these workshops is to evaluate science and policy aspects of specific issues and develop "best practice" recommendations for the EAFM document. This workshop included a range of presentations on climate change and the expected range of impacts on living marine resources. The Council also initiated a Habitat Pilot Project with the NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation, which will support the habitat components of the EAFM document and process.

- **Other Actions**

The Council took final action on an Omnibus Acceptable Biological Catch Framework. The framework will improve stability when multiyear specifications are developed, and is intended to expedite the incorporation of new scientific information for the criteria that determine "overfished" and "overfishing" stock statuses.

The Council reviewed a range of alternatives for its Deep Sea Coral Amendment and approved the public hearing document for release.

The Council voted to suspend its Research Set-Aside (RSA) program in 2015 to allow for a thorough review. The Council's decision followed an extensive discussion of the program's costs and benefits as well as consideration of public comments. The Council will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the program over the next year to determine whether the program should be resumed.

The Council adopted an omnibus amendment to streamline the regulations pertaining to vessels baselines and upgrade restrictions jointly with the NEFMC.

Council priorities for 2015 include:

- Complete specifications and recreational management measures (as needed) for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, Atlantic bluefish, Atlantic mackerel, and spiny dogfish, and review existing specifications for tilefish, squid, butterfish, Atlantic surfclams, and ocean quahogs.
- Continue development of the comprehensive summer flounder amendment.
- Continue development of several framework adjustments to revise the scup gear restricted areas, revise management of the tilefish fishery, and address several concerns in the management of the monkfish fishery (joint with NEFMC).
- Initiate an amendment to address capacity in the squid fishery.
- Complete an amendment to implement a cost-recovery program for the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries.
- Initiate an amendment to establish an excessive shares cap for the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries.
- Continue development of an amendment for the monkfish fishery to address latent effort and consider catch shares (joint with NEFMC).
- Complete an amendment establishing management for deep-sea corals in the mid-Atlantic.
- Complete an amendment to address observer funding issues (joint with NEFMC).
- Initiate an amendment to consider management approaches for unmanaged species of forage fish.

- Begin work on the 5-year review of the tilefish IFQ fishery, and begin a similar effort for the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog IFQ fisheries.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of the Council's RSA program.
- Complete the EAFM document.
- Continue work on the Habitat Pilot Project.
- Develop a comprehensive research priority plan.

3. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2014 for two SAFMC members. As a result of the 2014 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is four commercial, four recreational, and zero “other,” which reflects a change from four commercial, three recreational, and one “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the SAFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Mark E. Brown/R

William Chester Brewer, Jr./R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

David M. Cupka/O (ineligible for reappointment due to term limits)

John Jolley/R

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the SAFMC:

2014 SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	HARTIG, BENJAMIN C. III	FL	2015	C
O	BOWEN, EDWARD Z.	GA	2015	R
O	COX, JACK JR.	NC	2016	C
O	CONKLIN, CHRISTOPHER	SC	2016	C
A	BREWER, WILLIAM C. JR.	FL	2017	R
A	PHILLIPS, CHARLES M.	GA	2015	C
A	BECKWITH, ANNA B.	NC	2015	R
A	BROWN, MARK E.	SC	2017	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2015:

1. Benjamin C. Hartig, III – commercial fishing sector – obligatory seat (Florida)
2. Edward Z. Bowen – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Georgia)
3. Charles M. Phillips – commercial sector – at-large seat (Georgia)
4. Anna B. Beckwith – recreational sector – at-large seat (North Carolina)

2014 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the four members whose terms do not expire in 2015, two are from the commercial sector and two are from the recreational sector. The commercial members' experience includes harvesting, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen. The governors are encouraged to nominate nominees from both the commercial and recreational sectors so that the Secretary can achieve a balance between these two interest groups. While nominees to help balance the commercial and recreational sectors are important, the governors are also encouraged to nominate nominees from the "other" sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The SAFMC has prepared fishery management plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the South Atlantic EEZ: shrimp (penaeid and rock); coral, coral reef, and live/hard bottom habitats; golden crab; dolphin/wahoo; *Sargassum*; and the snapper-grouper species complex. The SAFMC and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) species in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

In 2014, the Council's management actions included:

- **Snapper-Grouper**

Snapper-Grouper Amendment 22, which includes a tag program to track landings of species with small recreational annual catch limits and updates to ACLs for gag and wreckfish based on assessments that indicate the stocks are healthy.

Snapper-Grouper Amendment 27, which includes actions related to blue runner, extension of management into the Gulf of Mexico for Nassau grouper, allowing an increase in the number of crew members on dual permitted (commercial and for-hire) vessels, and evaluating captain and crew harvest restrictions on for-hire vessels. Effective January 27, 2014.

Snapper-Grouper Amendment 29, which considers an update to the acceptable biological catch control rule, and management measures for gray triggerfish. Approved by SAFMC September 2014.

Snapper-Grouper Amendment 32, which considers updates to the annual catch limit of blueline tilefish based on a recent assessment. Approved by SAFMC September 2014.

Snapper-Grouper Regulatory Amendment 14, which considers measures for greater amberjack, black sea bass, vermilion snapper, and gag. Proposed rule published April 25, 2014.

Snapper-Grouper Regulatory Amendment 16, which considers modification of a prohibition on the use of black sea bass pots during the November–March right whale calving season.

Snapper-Grouper Amendment 36, which considers special management zones to provide protection for spawning snapper-grouper species.

Snapper-Grouper Regulatory Amendment 21, which redefined the minimum stock size threshold for eight snapper-grouper species. Proposed rule published August 1, 2014.

Snapper-Grouper Regulatory Amendment 20, which would update ACLs for snowy grouper based on recent assessment that indicates the stock is rebuilding and is no longer undergoing overfishing. Approved by SAFMC in September 2014.

Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35, which would remove four species from the Snapper-Grouper FMP and clarify the requirements of the golden tilefish endorsement program.

- **Coastal Migratory Pelagics**

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20a, which would eliminate bag limit sales for species in the FMP. Effective June 16, 2014.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20b, which would modify the commercial Hook-and-Line Trip Limits for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel; change the fishing year for gulf migratory group king mackerel for the Eastern and Western Zones; establish transit provisions for travel through areas that are closed to king mackerel fishing; and establish regional ACLs for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel and Spanish mackerel. Approved by SAFMC in March 2014.

South Atlantic Mackerel Framework Action 2013, which considers modifications to the restriction on transfer of fish at sea for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel, restriction on the number of gillnets allowed for each Spanish mackerel vessel, and changes in the commercial trip limit for king mackerel in the Florida East Coast subzone. Proposed rule published March 19, 2014.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 24, which would modify commercial and recreational allocations for Spanish and king mackerel.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 26, which considers adjustments to the king mackerel ACLs based on results from a recent assessment.

Joint South Atlantic Mackerel Framework Amendment 1, which considers adjustments to annual catch limits for Spanish mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic based on the results of recent assessments. Proposed rule published July 31, 2014.

Joint South Atlantic Mackerel Framework Amendment 2, which considers an adjustment to the system of trip limits for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel in the Southern Zone proposed in Mackerel Amendment 20B. Approved by SAFMC in September 2014.

- **Generic Amendments**

South Atlantic For-Hire Amendment, which would require weekly electronic reporting by headboats. Effective January 27, 2014.

Joint Generic Dealer Reporting Amendment, which would require weekly electronic reporting by dealers. Effective August 7, 2014.

Comprehensive Allocation/Accountability Amendment, which would adjust commercial/recreational allocations for dolphin and wahoo, as well as update accountability measures for snapper-grouper species and golden crab.

Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3, which would consider an action to enhance bycatch reporting requirements for snapper-grouper, coastal migratory pelagics, golden crab, and dolphin wahoo.

Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33, Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, which would allow snapper-grouper and dolphin and wahoo fillets to be brought into the U.S. EEZ from the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

- **Dolphin Wahoo**

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5, which considers adjustments of annual catch limits based on new estimates of recreational landings from the Marine Recreational Information Program, changes to accountability measures, dolphin commercial trip limits, and updates to the framework. Effective July 9, 2014.

- **Coral**

Coral Amendment 8, which includes expansion of the northern and western boundaries of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC); expansion of the Stetson-Miami Terrace and Cape Lookout Coral HAPCs; and establishment of a transit provision through Oculina Bank HAPC for vessels with rock shrimp onboard. Proposed rule published June 3, 2014.

- **Other Council Actions**

Administered and actively participated in the Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process for king mackerel, hogfish, gag, and wreckfish.

Continued to support NMFS by participating in activities of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee and the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) and Billfish Advisory Panels.

Council priorities for 2015 include:

- Submit Snapper-Grouper Amendment 29 and 32 to the Secretary.
- Submit Snapper-Grouper Regulatory Amendment 20 and 22 to the Secretary.
- Submit Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33/Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 to the Secretary.
- Submit Comprehensive Allocation/Accountability Amendment to the Secretary.
- Submit Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 to the Secretary.
- Submit Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 2 to the Secretary.
- Continue development of CE-BA 3.
- Continue development of Snapper-Grouper Regulatory Amendment 16.
- Continue development of Amendment 36.
- Continue development of Amendment 24 and 26.
- Continue development of Snapper-Grouper Amendment 22.
- Begin development of an electronic logbook amendment.
- Begin development of an electronic reporting amendment for charter boats.
- Begin development of a snapper-grouper amendment to address hogfish ACLs.
- Begin an amendment to address management measures for species in South Florida.
- Participate in the SEDAR process for gray triggerfish.

4. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2014 for three GMFMC members. As a result of the 2014 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives remains unchanged at four commercial, four recreational, and three “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the GMFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointee are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Gregory W. Stuntz/O

David A. Walker /C

Pamela L. Dana/R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Patrick F. Riley/C

Robert L. Shipp/O (ineligible for reappointment due to term limits)

Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the GMFMC:

2014 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	GREENE, JOHN R. JR.	AL	2015	R
O	SANCHEZ, JUAN M.	FL	2015	C
O	MATENS, CAMPO E.	LA	2015	R
O	BOSARGE, LEANN	MS	2016	C
O	BOYD, DOUGLASS W.	TX	2016	R
A	WALKER, DAVID A.	AL	2017	C
A	DANA, PAMELA L.	FL	2017	R
A	WILLIAMS, ROY	FL	2016	O
A	PEARCE, HARLON H.	LA	2015	C
A	PERRET, WILLIAM S.	MS	2015	O
A	STUNTZ, GREGORY W.	TX	2017	O

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2015:

1. John R. Greene Jr. – recreational fishing sector – obligatory seat (Alabama)
2. Juan M. Sanchez – commercial fishing sector – obligatory seat (Florida)
3. Campo E. Matens – recreational fishing sector – obligatory seat (Louisiana)

4. Harlon H. Pearce – commercial fishing sector – at-large seat (Louisiana) (ineligible for reappointment due to term limits)
5. William S. Perret – other sector – at-large seat (Mississippi)

2015 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the six members whose terms do not expire in 2015, two are from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational sector, and two are from the “other” sector. The remaining commercial members’ experience includes harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are all rod-and-reel fishermen.

The five Council members whose terms expire in 2015 include two outgoing members from the commercial sector, two from the recreational sector, and one from the “other” sector. The governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial and recreational sectors so that the Secretary can achieve a balance between these two interest groups. While nominees from each sector—commercial and recreational—are important, the governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the “other” sector. This would include individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The GMFMC has prepared Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): reef fish, shrimp, coral and coral reefs, red drum, and aquaculture. The GMFMC and the SAFMC have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagics (CMP) species in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region.

In 2014, the Council’s management actions included:

- **Reef Fish**

Red Snapper Quota Actions: Based on quota increases established in 2013, NMFS published a temporary rule December 19, 2013, establishing a 40-day red snapper recreational season for 2014. Subsequently, in March 2014, a District Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs (*Guindon v. Pritzker*, 2014 WL 1274076; D.D.C. Mar. 26, 2014), finding in pertinent part that NMFS failed to require adequate accountability measures to prohibit the retention of fish after the recreational quota had been harvested and failed to use the best scientific information available by not using the 2013 Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) numbers to determine whether there should be a fall season. Therefore, at its April 2014 meeting, the GMFMC requested an emergency rule to revise the recreational accountability measures for red snapper by applying a 20 percent buffer to the recreational quota, which results in a recreational annual catch target (ACT) of 4.312 million pounds whole weight. This rule published May 16, 2014, changing the red snapper federal recreational season to 9 days.

Framework to Establish Red Snapper Accountability Measures: As a follow-up to the emergency rule discussed above, this framework action would replace accountability measures established by emergency rule for the 2014 red snapper recreational fishing season. Current preferred alternatives are to establish an ACT that is a 20 percent buffer from the annual catch limit (ACL), and to have a payback provision the following year for any overage. The GMFMC approved this action for submission to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation at its August 2014 meeting. NMFS is currently developing rulemaking for this action.

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Administrative Changes: NMFS recommended to the GMFMC several administrative changes to the IFQ programs for red snapper and grouper-tilefish. The GMFMC approved these recommended changes in 2013. NMFS published a final rule September 26, 2014, effective October 27, 2014.

Accountability Measure Temporary Rules: In accordance with established accountability measures, in April 2014 NMFS adjusted the 2014 allowable catches for recreational greater amberjack, gray triggerfish, and red grouper. Final 2013 landings indicated that the recreational catch limit for gray triggerfish was doubled, thus the 2014 quota was adjusted to zero and recreational harvest was prohibited on May 1, 2014. Because the recreational catch limit for greater amberjack was exceeded by 21 percent in 2013, the recreational catch limit and catch target were reduced for 2014. NMFS subsequently closed recreational and commercial harvest of greater amberjack on August 25, 2014. A 26 percent recreational catch limit overage for red grouper triggered two separate accountability measures; the bag limit was reduced from four to three fish, and NMFS initially announced a closure date for recreational red grouper of September 16, 2014, but extended the closure date to October 4, 2014, based on updated landings information.

Reef Fish Framework to Adjust ACLs/ACTs for IFQ Grouper-Tilefish: The GMFMC approved this action at its June 2014 meeting. The action clarifies that the GMFMC wants to manage the species complexes in the grouper-tilefish IFQ to the ACT, and identifies the ACTs as the quota for each complex. The action also adjusts the ACLs and ACTs for these species complexes to coincide with adjusted historical landings data based on the new Marine Recreational Information Program. A proposed rule published October 1, 2014; final rulemaking became effective in January 2015.

- **Shrimp**

Framework to Modify the Electronic Logbook Program: Since 2005, NMFS has contracted services to monitor and analyze data collected by electronic logbooks aboard federally permitted shrimp vessels. Based on recommendations from NMFS, the GMFMC developed an action to modify this program. The modifications include updating the logbooks to more modern and efficient units, and establishing cost sharing

for the program between NMFS and the industry. The GMFMC approved the framework action in June 2013, and NMFS published a final rule effective January 27, 2014.

Shrimp Amendment 16: The GMFMC approved this amendment in October 2014. If implemented, the action would adjust the current ACL, remove the existing quota, establish a post-season accountability measure, and remove an in-season closure for royal red shrimp.

- **Mackerel (CMP)**

CMP Amendment 20A: The GMFMC approved this amendment, developed jointly with the SAMFC at the October 2013 meeting. Amendment 20A would prohibit certain recreational sales and remove the income requirement to renew a permit. NMFS published a notice of availability of the amendment requesting public comment on March 3, 2014. The amendment was approved May 30, 2014, and a final rule was effective, in part, July 16, 2014. The section relative to sale of tournament-caught mackerel was effective August 7, 2014, concurrent with the effective date of the Generic Dealer Reporting Amendment because it modified the same section of the regulations.

CMP Amendment 20B: The GMFMC approved this amendment, developed jointly with the SAMFC, at the October 2013 meeting. This action would modify fishing years, trip limits, regional quotas for king and Spanish mackerel in the South Atlantic, the framework procedure, annual catch limits and allocations between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic for cobia, and transit provisions. NMFS published a notice of availability for the amendment requesting public comment on October 17, 2014, and expects to implement the rulemaking in early 2015.

CMP Framework 1: This action, developed jointly by the SAFMC and GMFMC, was approved for Secretarial review at the Councils' March and April meetings, respectively. The framework action increases the ACLs for Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Spanish mackerel. A proposed rule published on July 31, 2014, and a final rule published on November 20, 2014.

CMP Framework 2: This action, developed by the SAFMC, was approved for Secretarial review at their September 2014 meeting, and was approved by the GMFMC at their October 2014 meeting. The final rule became effective in December 2014.

- **Aquaculture**

The Aquaculture Fishery Management Plan entered into effect by operation of law in 2009. Subsequently, NMFS issued a national aquaculture policy, which required changes to the proposed regulations to implement aquaculture in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The GMFMC reviewed and approved these changes in February 2013. A proposed rule published August 28, 2014.

- **Generic Rules**

Dealer Reporting Amendment: This joint amendment with the SAFMC is intended to improve the current reporting requirements for those individuals or organizations holding federal seafood dealer permits for species contained in FMPs for the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Initially approved by the GMFMC and SAFMC in 2012, subsequent regulatory changes required the two Councils to re-approve the amendment in the fall of 2013. NMFS published a final rule April 9, 2014, with a 4-month delayed effective date to allow dealers to comply with the new requirements.

Electronic Headboat Reporting Framework: This action parallels a separate action by the SAFMC to establish a requirement for headboats to report catches via electronic means on a weekly basis. Failure to make timely reporting would result in vessels not being able to make trips until the reporting deficiencies are corrected. The GMFMC approved this action in 2013. NMFS published a final rule effective March 5, 2014.

- **Other Council Actions—2014**

The GMFMC members or staff were actively involved in the following Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) activities between October 1, 2013, and September 30, 2014:

- SEDAR 33 Assessment Workshop Webinars for Gulf Gag and Greater Amberjack: October 1 – December 16, 2013.
- SEDAR 33 Assessment Workshop Webinar for Gulf Gag and Greater Amberjack: January 8–15, 2014.
- Hogfish Stock Assessment Public Data Scoping Meeting hosted by Florida: January 13, 2014.
- SEDAR 33 Greater Amberjack and Gag Review Workshop: February 24–27, 2014.
- SEDAR 38 Data Scoping Webinars.
- SEDAR 38 Data Workshop: December 9–13, 2013.
- SEDAR 38 Post-Data Workshop webinar: January 14, 2014.
- SEDAR 38 Post-Data Workshop Pre-Assessment Workshop Webinar: March 4, 2014.
- SEDAR 38 Assessment Workshop: March 24–27, 2014.
- SEDAR 38 Assessment Workshop Webinar: April 24 – July 16, 2014.
- SEDAR 38 Gulf and South Atlantic King Mack Review Workshop: August 12–14, 2014.

The GMFMC continued to support NMFS by participating in activities of the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel (AP). In 2014, participation in the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas activities was anticipated; however, this year the GMFMC representative was unable to attend.

Council priorities for 2015 include:

Reef Fish

- Continue development of Reef Fish Amendment 28 to re-allocate red snapper between sectors.
- Continue development of Reef Fish Amendment 36 to consider potential modifications to the red snapper IFQ program.
- Continue development of Reef Fish Amendment 39 to establish regional management for recreational red snapper fishing.
- Continue development of Reef Fish Amendment 40 to establish separate private angler and for-hire components of the recreational sector for red snapper.
- Consider development of Reef Fish Amendment 41, a for-hire red snapper IFQ, if Amendment 40 is approved.
- Continue development of a framework action to modify stock status criteria for red snapper.
- Consider development of a framework action establishing effort controls (tags, slot limits) for private anglers for red snapper.
- Continue development of a framework action to adjust red grouper management measures (bag limits, seasons).
- Continue development of a framework action to adjust greater amberjack management measures to end overfishing (allowable harvest, seasons).
- Continue development of a framework action to adjust ACLs for all data-poor reef fish stocks, substituting MRIP values for Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey values where long-term average landings have been used to calculate ACLs.
- Consider development of an amendment to re-allocate allowable catch of gag and red grouper between commercial and recreational sectors.
- Consider a generic amendment to develop default status determination criteria for reef fish species that do not already have them.

Shrimp

- Continue development of Shrimp Amendment 15 to modify stock status criteria.
- Continue development of Shrimp Amendment 17 to extend the permit moratorium.

CMP

- Continue development of CMP Amendment 24 to re-allocate between sectors.
- Continue development of CMP Amendment 26 to separate Gulf and South Atlantic commercial permits.

Other

- Participate in SEDAR benchmark assessments.
- Consider development of amendments to require electronic reporting for private anglers, charter boats, and commercially permitted vessels.
- Consider an amendment to allow recreational harvest of red drum in federal waters.
- Consider an action to revise the acceptable biological catch control rule.

5. Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

A term expired in 2014 for one CFMC member. As a result of the 2014 appointment to that vacant position, the composition of fishing sector representatives is changed from two commercial, one recreational, and two “other” to one commercial, two recreational, and one “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the CFMC remains unchanged. The appointee is as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Marcos R. Hanke/R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Nelson R. Crespo/C

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the CFMC:

2014 CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (4 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	FARCHETTE, CARLOS F.	VI	2015	O
O	HANKE, MARCOS R.	PR	2017	R
A	PIÑEIRO-SOLER, EUGENIO	PR	2015	R
A	BLANCHARD, LOUIS	VI	2016	C

EXPIRING TERM:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2015:

1. Carlos F. Farchette – other sector – obligatory seat (Virgin Islands)
2. Eugenio Piñeiro-Soler – recreational sector – at-large seat (Puerto Rico)

2015 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the two members whose terms do not expire in 2015, one is from the commercial fishing sector and one is from the recreational fishing sector. The 2015 vacancies will be from the commercial fishing sector and the other fishing sector. The governors are encouraged to recommend nominees from the commercial fishing sector, recreational fishing sector or other nominees with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The CFMC has prepared fishery management plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ): Queen Conch, Spiny Lobster, Reef Fish, and Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates.

In 2014, the Council's management actions included:

- Initiated the process of converting species-based management plans to island-based management plans, ultimately resulting in separate FMPs for each of Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas/St. John. Actions to date include:
 - Finalizing the Environmental Assessment describing and evaluating the effects of the shift in management from species-based to island-based in the U.S. Caribbean.
 - Initiating development of each island-based draft environmental impact statement.
 - Developing a list of criteria to be used in determining species to be included for management within each of the island-based FMPs.
 - Establishing separate Advisory Panels for each of the three island groups.
- For the Reef Fish and Spiny Lobster FMPs, continued development of consistent regulations governing fishing activities within three seasonally closed areas off Puerto Rico (Abrir La Sierra Bank, Bajo de Sico, and Tourmaline Bank). The purpose of this amendment is to establish consistent federal regulations among the three areas, while ensuring adequate protection of spawning aggregations of reef fish and the benthic habitat supporting those aggregations. The Council will revisit their preferred alternatives at its December 9–10, 2014, meeting.
- For all four FMPs, continued development of a comprehensive amendment to establish a control rule that would modify the buffer reduction applied to the overfishing limit or the acceptable biological catch to derive annual catch limits (ACLs) for managed species. This buffer reduction would be based upon the overfishing status determination by NMFS. The CFMC will reconsider this proposed amendment at their spring 2015 meeting.
- For all four FMPs, continued the development of a comprehensive amendment to establish fishery closure dates other than the presently extant end-of-the-year closure, in the event a species or species group exceeds its assigned ACL. A primary goal of this action is to limit harvest to the ACLs while minimizing adverse socio-economic effects of accountability measure–based closures. The CFMC will consider an Options Paper on this topic at their December 9–10, 2014, meeting.
- Initiated the development of an action to develop a permit system to govern commercial fishing activities in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ. A scoping document will be presented at the December 9–10, 2014, CFMC meeting.

Council priorities for 2015 include:

- Evaluate the effects of removing red hind grouper from its current management unit (Grouper Unit 3) and establishing the species within a separate management unit and how this action would affect the current grouper ACLs. Develop an amendment to the Reef Fish FMP if appropriate.
- Develop a compatible fish-trap reduction program in federal waters of the USVI.
- Develop an amendment to the Reef Fish and Spiny Lobster FMPs, which would require escape vents in fish traps.
- Evaluate the implications of a prohibition on the use of traps in the recreational sector, in order to be compatible with territorial/commonwealth waters.
- Evaluate the implications of a federal Snapper Unit 2 commercial harvest permit system.
- Coordinate and participate in international workshops addressing spawning aggregations and recreational fisheries, as well as other shared resources issues.
- Continue development and strengthening of the Education and Outreach program.
- Continue work on converting FMPs from species-based to island-based management in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ.

6. Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2014 for two PFMC members. As a result of the 2014 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is unchanged from three commercial, three recreational, three “other.” There is one tribal representative, who is counted as a member of the “other” sector. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of available at-large seats on the PFMC remains unchanged. The reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Richard Lincoln/other

Jeffrey Feldner/commercial

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment

Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the PFMC:

2014 PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (9 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	CRABBE, DAVID M.	CA	2015	C
O	POLLARD, HERBERT A. II	ID	2016	R
O	LOWMAN, DOROTHY M.	OR	2015	O
O	LINCOLN, RICHARD H.	WA	2017	O
O	PFMC TRIBAL SEAT: SONES, DAVID B.	WA	2015	T
A	BRIZENDINE, WILLIAM L. II	CA	2015	R
A	WOLFORD, DANNY L.	CA	2016	R
A	FELDNER, JEFFREY N.	OR	2017	C
A	MYER, DALE D.	WA	2015	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2015:

1. David Crabbe – commercial sector – California’s obligatory seat
2. Dorothy Lowman – other sector – Oregon’s obligatory seat

3. William Brizendine II – recreational sector – at large seat (California)
4. David Sones – other sector – tribal obligatory seat (ineligible for reappointment due to term limits)
5. Dale Myer – “commercial” sector – at large seat (Washington) (ineligible for reappointment due to term limits)

2015 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the four members whose terms do not expire in 2015, two are from the recreational fishing sector, one is from the commercial fishing sector, and one is from the “other” sector. The remaining commercial member’s experience includes harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are both rod-and-reel fishermen.

The five upcoming vacancies in 2015 include two outgoing members from the “other” sector (including the tribal seat), two outgoing members from the “commercial” sector, and one outgoing member from the recreational sector. The tribal governments with federally recognized fishing rights in California, Oregon, or Washington are encouraged to submit nominees for the tribal seat. The state governors are encouraged to provide the Secretary with nominees from the other sector with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management, as well as nominees from the commercial and recreational sectors as a basis for maintaining a balance of both sector interests.

DISCUSSION:

The PFMF has prepared FMPs for: Pacific Coast groundfish, West Coast salmon, coastal pelagic species, and highly migratory species. The PFMF has also adopted a Fishery Ecosystem Plan and an Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix to help integrate ecosystem considerations into its fishery management decisions.

The PFMF has responsibility for recommending allocations of Pacific halibut among treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial and recreational fishermen in Area 2A under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act.

In 2014, the Council’s management actions included:

- **Groundfish**
 - Concluded a sablefish program review that included a revision to the methods for determining the number of permits any one entity controls.
 - Adopted final 2015 and 2016 overfishing limits, acceptable biological catches, and annual catch limits for groundfish.
 - Completed the biennial groundfish management process for the 2015-2016 fishing seasons including recommendations for five exempted fishing permits, and approved Amendment 24, which would amend the fishery management

plan (FMP) to include default harvest control rules that would be used in future biennia and designates some FMP species as ecosystem component species.

- Adopted final recommendations for the 2014 Pacific whiting fishery.
- Recommended significant in-season adjustments for 2013-2014 groundfish management measures.
- Approved continued use of the adaptive management program quota pound pass-through through the completion of the 5-year program review.
- Adopted new depth-based mortality rates for cowcod, canary rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish for fish discarded in recreational fisheries using descending devices to mitigate barotrauma.
- Completed the Phase 2 essential fish habitat review process.

- **Salmon**

- Developed and approved final 2014 salmon management measures and incidental commercial and sport halibut regulations.
- Recommended significant in-season adjustments to 2014 ocean salmon fisheries.
- Continued to work with NMFS on revising the Endangered Species Act consultation standard for harvest of Lower Columbia River natural coho and Sacramento River winter Chinook.
- Submitted comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Lower Columbia River cormorant biological opinion.
- Approved revised salmon estimation methodologies for the 2015 management process.
- Approved new conservation objectives for Willapa Bay coho and Southern Oregon Coastal Chinook stocks.

- **Pacific Halibut**

- Adopted incidental landing limits for Pacific halibut in the commercial non-Indian salmon troll fishery and the primary fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington, for 2014.
- Adopted changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for 2015, including new allocations to address expansion of the California recreational fishery.

- **Coastal Pelagic Species**

- Adopted a new temperature index for calculating the annual overfishing limit for Pacific sardine.
- Adopted a new harvest fraction term in the sardine harvest control rule.
- Adopted sardine stock assessment, allowable biological catch, and management measures for the July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, fishery period, including a set-aside for tribal fisheries.
- Adopted a Pacific mackerel stock assessment and allowable biological catch for the July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, fishery.

- **Highly Migratory Species**
 - Initiated a process to reduce bycatch in the California drift gillnet fishery through the use of hard limits (caps) on marine mammals and sea turtles, and measures to reduce discard of other species.
 - Established a control date of June 23, 2014, for a possible drift gillnet limited entry program.
 - Solicited exempted fishing permits proposals to test alternative gear types or new approaches for using pelagic drift gillnet gear.
 - Provided input for international tuna management and conservation measures to 1) the U.S. State Department, 2) the General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and 3) the U.S. delegations of the Northern Committee and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The input included issues with regard to the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty, the status of Pacific bluefin tuna, and North Pacific albacore tuna conservation.
- **Fishery Ecosystem**
 - Approved alternatives for protecting unfished and unmanaged forage fish including a preferred alternative, and discussed how to incorporate these protections in each of the Council's four fishery management plans.
 - Reviewed the state of the California Current ecosystem as well as recent work done under NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team.

Council priorities for 2015 include:

- Complete groundfish stock assessments and reviews for use in 2017 and beyond, including an improved method for assessments of data-poor species and consideration of stock complex issues.
- Complete further trailing actions to optimize the limited access catch shares program for the groundfish trawl fishery.
- Continued work on groundfish regulations and new management measures including at-sea whiting scales, widow rockfish quota share reallocation, inter-sector allocation of blackgill rockfish, and a mid-water recreational groundfish fishery in Oregon.
- Initiate an amendment to the groundfish FMP to update and modify essential fish habitat.
- Complete a regulatory process to allow use of electronic monitoring in the limited access catch shares program.
- Initiate a requirement for electronic reporting of sablefish landings across all commercial sectors.
- Establish the 2015 ocean salmon fisheries with opportunities for commercial, recreational, and treaty Indian fisheries while protecting ESA-listed and other depressed salmon stocks.

- Complete final recommendations to the International Pacific Halibut Commission concerning 2015 incidental catch regulations in the commercial salmon fishery and the primary fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington.
- Complete changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan, including proposed changes to account for Pacific halibut harvest in California.
- Establish 2015-2016 Pacific sardine and 2015-2017 Pacific mackerel fisheries.
- Establish hard caps for protected species in the West Coast swordfish fishery.
- Authorize a longline swordfish fishery outside the West Coast EEZ.
- Maintain an active presence in highly migratory species regional fishery management organizations that impact Council management recommendations, including input to negotiations on the fishing regime under the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty.
- Consider modifications to the West Coast drift gillnet swordfish fishery to increase efficiency, monitor coverage and economic viability, and reduce bycatch.
- Consider alternative gear possibilities for implementing a West Coast swordfish fishery.
- Initiate an essential fish habitat review for highly migratory species.
- Complete the unmanaged forage fish protection initiative.
- Monitor habitat issues and develop comments as appropriate.
- Participate in Council Coordination Committee and other administrative processes.

7. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2014 for two NPFMC obligatory members. As a result of the 2014 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the NPFMC is unchanged from five commercial, one recreational, and one “other.” There are no available at-large seats on the NPFMC. The appointee and reappointee are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Simon Kinneen/C

John J. Henderschedt/O

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Eric A. Olson/commercial (ineligible for reappointment due to term limits)

Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the NPFMC:

2014 NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (7 Members)				
Obligatory	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	HULL, HOWARD D.	AK	2015	C
O	FIELDS, DUNCAN S.	AK	2016	C
O	LONG, DAVID	AK	2016	C
O	KINNEEN, SIMON	AK	2017	C
O	DERSHAM, ROBERT E.	AK	2015	R
O	CROSS, CRAIG A.	WA	2015	C
O	HENDERSCHIEDT, JOHN J.*	WA	2017	O

*Note: Early in 2015, Mr. Henderschedt resigned from the Council, effective February 20, 2015. This seat was filled in an out-of-cycle appointment by Kenneth Down/C in February 2015. Since Mr. Henderschedt served as a Council member for all of 2014, his replacement by Mr. Down will be reflected in the 2015 table.

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2015:

1. Howard D. Hull – commercial fishing sector – Alaska obligatory seat
2. Robert E. Dersham – recreational fishing sector – Alaska obligatory seat
3. Craig A. Cross – commercial fishing sector – Washington obligatory seat

2015 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the four members whose terms do not expire in 2015, three are from the commercial fishing sector and one is from the “other” sector. The commercial sector members have experience in processing and harvesting. The three upcoming vacancies include two outgoing members from the commercial sector and one from the recreational sector. Although commercial fisheries are particularly important in this region, the governors are encouraged to continue to nominate individuals from the recreational fishing sector and from the “other” sector. “Other” sector nominees should include persons with backgrounds in academics, fisheries management, environmental science, economics, or social science, and who have knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management. Recently, Alaska native tribal entities also have voiced strong support for greater representation on the NPFMC.

DISCUSSION:

The NPFMC has six FMPs for: Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska, Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI), Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab, the Scallop Fishery off Alaska, and Fishery Resources of the Arctic Management Area.

In 2014, the Council’s management actions included:

- **Fishery Management Plans**

The NPFMC recently adopted additional amendments to the groundfish and crab FMPs, which have not yet been approved and implemented. Routine management of the fisheries under the salmon, scallop, and BSAI crab FMPs is deferred to the State of Alaska, while the NPFMC retains oversight of major allocation, overfishing definition, and habitat management issues. In addition, under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, the NPFMC has authority over allocation issues affecting the Pacific halibut fishery in and off Alaska, while the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) retains responsibility for conservation management of this fishery.

- **Rebuilding Plans**

Of all fisheries managed under FMPs, only the Pribilof Islands blue king crab is currently under a rebuilding plan. After NMFS determined that this stock was overfished, the NPFMC promptly began the process of developing rebuilding plans for this species, as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. A rebuilding plan was approved for Pribilof Islands blue king crab in 2004 (FMP Amendment 17). A revised rebuilding plan for Pribilof Islands blue king crab was recommended by the Council and approved by NMFS in November 2014 (FMP Amendment 43).

- **Salmon Bycatch Efforts**

In 2013, the Council recommended bycatch limits for Chinook salmon in the Gulf of Alaska non-pollock fisheries. NMFS implemented the Council’s recommendations in

December 2014. These regulations will be effective at the end of 2014. These regulations mirror other regulations that the Council has recommended and NMFS has implemented over the past 3 years for the pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.

- **Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures**

In 2015 the Council will implement Steller sea lion protection measures that do not result in a jeopardy or adverse modification determination under section 7 of the ESA while providing expanded fishing opportunities.

Council priorities for 2015 include:

- Aiding the implementation of a restructured Observer Program to monitor the groundfish and Pacific halibut fisheries. NMFS implemented the restructured Observer Program in 2013, and the Council is advising NMFS on specific monitoring objectives. The restructured program would include a fee-based system that would allow for more flexibility to deploy observers needed to collect quality catch information in the groundfish and Pacific halibut fisheries.
- Aiding efforts by NMFS and industry participants to develop and implement cooperative research for electronic monitoring to address concerns or practicality of deploying observers on small vessels. The Council has developed an electronic monitoring strategic plan, and is developing an electronic monitoring work group to facilitate further research and implementation.
- Expanding existing efforts to improve salmon bycatch measures in the Bering Sea pollock fishery to provide incentives to reduce bycatch at all levels of salmon stock abundance.
- Examining further reductions to BSAI halibut bycatch in a range of bycatch fisheries.
- Assessing the potential for a catch share program in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries that would provide incentives and tools to reduce the bycatch of halibut and salmon, improve monitoring and enforcement, and enhance the value of Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries.
- Assessing options to reduce bycatch of Pacific halibut, crab, salmon, and other species caught incidentally in the groundfish fisheries.
- Refining the various catch share programs developed by the NPFMC and implemented by NMFS.
- Addressing ongoing domestic allocation issues associated with the Pacific halibut resource in recognition that the overall coast-wide harvest strategy for this resource is established by the IPHC.

8. Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2014 for three WPFMC members. As a result of the 2014 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the WPFMC is unchanged from two commercial, two recreational, and four “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the WPFMC remains unchanged. The new appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

John E. Gourley/O
Edwin A. Ebisui, Jr./O
Frederick M. Rice/R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Richard B. Seman/O
Reappointment
Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the WPFMC:

2014 WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	DUENAS, MICHAEL P.	GU	2015	C
O	POUMELE, CLAIRE T.	AS	2016	O
O	GOURLEY, JOHN E.	CNMI	2017	O
O	GOTO, MICHAEL K.	HI	2015	C
A	LEIALOHA, JULIE A.K.	HI	2016	O
A	RICE, FREDERICK M.	HI	2017	R
A	EBISUI, EDWIN A.	HI	2017	O
A	SWORD, WILLIAM A.	AS	2016	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2015:

1. Michael P. Duenas – commercial fishing sector – obligatory seat (Guam)
2. Michael K. Goto – commercial fishing sector – obligatory seat (Hawaii)

2015 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the six appointed members whose terms do not expire in 2015, two are from the recreational fishing sector and four are from the “other” sector. The recreational members have experience in hook-and-line fishing. The two upcoming vacancies include two from the

commercial fishing sector. To achieve sector balance on the WPFMC, the governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from the commercial fishing sector.

DISCUSSION:

Domestic fisheries in U.S. EEZ waters and operating in the adjacent high seas of the western Pacific (Pacific Islands) are managed under five fishery ecosystem plans (FEPs): Pacific Pelagic FEP, Hawaii Archipelago FEP, American Samoa Archipelago FEP, Mariana Archipelago FEP, and the Pacific Remote Islands Areas FEP.

In 2014, the Council's management actions included:

- Provided scientific and socio-economic information that supported efforts to keep 287,000 square miles around the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands open to U.S. commercial fishermen after President Obama announced plans to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.
- Established a Regional Operating Agreement between the Council, Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), and Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center (PIFSC) to document the roles and responsibilities of the Council and NMFS in developing, approving, and implementing fishery management actions under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Established the 2014 annual catch limits and accountability measures for all insular stocks of management unit species in the region.
- Developed and transmitted multi-year research priorities to the Secretary of Commerce and the PIFSC, as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Approved 3-year marine conservation plans (MCP) for the Pacific Remote Islands Areas, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.
- Implemented final regulations for Amendment 7 to the Pacific Pelagic FEP.
- Monitored the fishery performance and published annual reports on the Pelagic and Insular fisheries in the Pacific Islands.
- The Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee developed the Regional Strategic Plan to improve fishery data collection and coordinate fishery research for management. The strategic plan was approved and endorsed by the Council members in October 2014.
- Formed an Education Committee, which developed a memorandum of understanding signed by 13 higher education institutions and local and federal natural resource agencies, which contains actions to build capacity within the territories to manage their fisheries. A scholarship program and announcement for the 2015-2016 academic year is being finalized.
- Supported projects, assessments, and internships that fulfill the Council's conservation and management objectives and fishery development priorities, including the following:
 - Partnered with Pacific Island communities to support community-based management and development projects.
 - Completed a variety of education and outreach initiatives to support public awareness of sustainable fishery issues, build local capacity in fisheries

management, and enhance engagement of fishermen and the public in the federal fishery management process.

Other Accomplishments:

- At the 2014 Recreational Fishing Summit, pushed for a regional approach to fishery management in order to address the unique environmental, social, cultural, and economic issues of the WPR.
- Worked with world-renowned coral expert to submit best available science for consideration to final decision to list reef-building corals under the ESA.
- Participated in WCPFC, IATTC, and other international RFMOs as U.S. delegates.
- Amended the PRIA FEP to be consistent with the expanded Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

Council priorities for 2015 include:

- Complete the Fishery Ecosystem Plan reviews and implement recommendations as appropriate.
- Continue to improve the specification of annual catch limits (ACLs) for data-poor stocks using a model-based approach.
- Host the National Scientific and Statistical Committee Workshop 5.
- Implement ESA Working Group recommendations through improved coordination with NMFS on Section 7 consultations involving fisheries managed by the Council FEPs.
- Continue to improve the information base used to evaluate fishery impacts on protected species and develop solutions to further reduce fishery interactions with protected species.
- Work with NMFS to finalize Council recommendation to establish a permitting system for off-shore aquaculture in the U.S. EEZ in the Western Pacific Region.
- Work as a member of the steering committee to assist in the implementation of the Malesso Community-based Resource Management Plan (CBRMP).
- Host the Community-based Fishery Management Planning effort for the Village of Yigo, Guam, and the Northern Islands community in CNMI.
- Engage with the Village of Umatac, Guam, in the development of their CBRMP.
- Complete Hawaii Community Development Program (CDP) project and develop CDP proposals for other island areas.
- Continue to work with NMFS to refine descriptions of essential fish habitat and habitats of particular concern for all western Pacific management unit species.
- Continue to work with the Insular Fishery Offices, NMFS, USFWS, and other agencies and institutions to support the Fisheries Data Collection and Research Committee and develop a strategic plan to improve fishery data collection and coordinate fishery research and monitoring for the Western Pacific region.
- Continue to work with fishing communities throughout the region on fisheries development and other projects identified in the MCPs.

- Modify the American Samoa longline limited entry program to reduce programmatic barriers that may be limiting small vessel participation, which, in turn, may be affecting sustained community and indigenous American Samoan participation in the longline fishery.
- Consider management measures to support the American Samoa longline fishery to achieve optimal yield while improving economic efficiency.
- Specify annual longline catch limits and annual transferable limits for American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI for fishing year 2015.
- Remove the current swordfish trip limits for the American Samoa longline fishery, and investigate the feasibility of authorizing shallow-set longline fishing for swordfish in American Samoa, while minimizing sea turtle interactions.
- Encourage NMFS and other organizations to implement the recommendations generated by the Council's workshop on the movement of bigeye tuna in the Pacific Ocean, including the development of spatially explicit international management measures for bigeye tuna.
- Convene international workshop to consider management options to effectively reduce purse seine bigeye tuna fishing mortality in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.
- Advocate that the implementation of recommendations of the Presidential Task Force on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Seafood Fraud properly address related issues for the Western Pacific Region.
- Finalize the Marine Planning and Climate Change Policy and begin implementing the action plan, including outreach materials and community workshops.
- Air the Hawaii yellowfin video on a major television station in Hawaii, and discuss this and other fishery management issues on Hawaii Public Broadcasting Station.
- Continue national Regional Fishery Management Council outreach and education efforts and maintenance and promotion of the fisherycouncils.org website. Potentially host a meeting of the Council outreach persons during the year.
- Complete for publication books on revival of the Aha Moku management system and 40-year history of the Council.
- Publish a Council monograph, potentially profiling bottomfish fisheries in the western Pacific region (WPR).
- Continue the Go Fish! radio talk show and publish Pacific Islands Fishery News quarterly.
- Finalize, distribute, and promote the Fishermen Code of Conduct posters and PSAs in the various languages throughout the WPR.
- Organize Fishers Forums in Hawaii (two) and American Samoa.
- Exhibit at community events, such as Hawaii Ocean Festival, Hawaii Fishing and Dive Expo, Hawaii Seafood Festival, and fishing tournaments and derbies.
- Participate in the Hawaii Conservation Conference and National Marine Educators Association Conference, and assist with organization of the 2016 International Pacific Marine Educators Network and 2016 First Stewards conferences.
- Finalize and run the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 U.S. Pacific Territories Capacity Building Scholarship program and commence working on other objectives in the Education Committee MOU.

H. APPENDIX – STATISTICAL FISHERIES DATA

This report provides, in this appendix, the following statistical information about the status of fisheries managed under each Council. It also identifies the number of Council members participating in those fisheries. The most recent data were compiled to show the volume of fisheries production and the related effort in each fishery managed under an FMP.⁷

This appendix provides statistical data required by Section 302(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Unless otherwise indicated, the data are for the 2012-2013 fisheries listed by FMP. Beginning from the leftmost column, the listed data are:

1. FMPs developed by each Council.
2. Type of fishery managed under each plan, i.e., commercial or recreational, or mixed (see below).
3. Species/species groups making up each fishery.
4. Weight of each species or species group in a fishery landed in 2008 (or as otherwise indicated) showing both the landings for commercial and recreational fishermen, if recreational information is available.
5. Number of fishermen participating in the listed fisheries, if available; otherwise, the number of U.S. vessels either permitted or estimated to be operating in the fishery.
6. Gear and processing methods used in each fishery.
7. Range and seasonality of the fishery.
8. Number of current Council members who are commercial or recreational sector participants in each fishery; or their representatives.⁸

LEGEND FOR TYPE FISHERIES

C - Commercial fishery: 80 percent or more of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.

c - Mainly commercial fishery: More than 60 percent (-) but less than 80 percent (-) of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.

x - Mixed fishery: 60 percent or less of the reported landings are by each group of commercial and recreational fishermen.

r - Mainly recreational fishery: More than 60 percent (-) but less than 80 percent (-) of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

R - Recreational fishery: 80 percent or more of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

⁷ The Secretary also has management authority over Highly Migratory Species in the EEZ off the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico coasts. An additional table has been included with the following Appendix, which lists FMPs and other statistical data for Atlantic and Gulf HMS.

⁸ Vertical sums in the attached appendices may not match the sums entered for interest sectors in Table 1 on page 6. If one or more Council members actively participated in more than one fishery, the vertical sum will exceed the number entered in the interest sector column. Also, if a Council member participated in a currently closed fishery, he or she is still listed as a representative of the fishery in the table because of the expertise they bring to the Council regarding the operation of the fishery.

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2013	Vessels (permits) 2013	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2013	
								Comm.	Rec.
Northeast Multi- Species	C	Commercial Atlantic cod Haddock Pollock Hakes Ocean perch (redfish) Yellowtail flounder American plaice Winter flounder Witch flounder Windowpane flounder* Atlantic halibut Ocean pout	1,934 1,646 4,472 8,388 3,551 2,171 1,428 2,751 686 22 30 0	2,444	trawl, dredge, longline, gillnet, hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted	8	3
	R	Recreational Cod Pollock Winter flounder	639 748 34	686	hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted, filleted		
Atlantic Sea Scallops	C	Atlantic sea scallops	18,684	799	dredge & trawl	FMP area/year round	hand shucking and freezing	3	0
Atlantic Salmon	R	Atlantic salmon	0	None	None	None	none	0	0
Deep-sea Red Crab	C	Deep-sea red crab	928	1,466	Traps, trawl	FMP area/year round	whole, partially processed at sea	1	0
Atlantic Herring	C	Atlantic herring	94,360	2,050	Mid-water trawl; purse seines; weirs; otter trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/canned shoreside/fresh bait	3	0
Monkfish	C	Monkfish	4,368	2,354	gillnets, trawls, dredges	FMP area/year round	fresh	7	0
Northeast Skate Complex	C	Skates	2,977	2,202	Trawls, gillnets, dredge, longline	FMP area/year round	fresh bait, frozen, partially processed at sea		

Commercial fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Northeast Region and are based on information in the Region's data base as of December 2013. Recreational fisheries information was obtained from the Office of Science and Technology at http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/commercial/fus/fus12/03_recreational2012.pdf and are based on the results of the 2012 Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

A-ii MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC)

A-ii MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2013	Vessels (permits) 2013	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2013	
								Comm.	Rec.
Atlantic Mackerel, Squid & Butterfish	C	Commercial Atlantic mackerel	4,134	2,084	otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	frozen, whole	2	1
	C	Squid, Loligo Squid, <u>Ilex</u> Butterfish	11,094 3,792 1,091	(Combine) 1,985	trawl; traps	FMP area/year round	at-sea & ashore, some mackerel fillets		
	R	Recreational Atlantic mackerel	896	769		FMP area/year round			
Atlantic Surf Clam & Ocean Quahogs	C	Atlantic surfclams	19,840	663	Dredge	FMP area/year round (ITQ mgmt.)	shucked shoreside	1	
		Ocean quahogs	14,636	662					
Summer Flounder (fluke)	x	Commercial	5,665	839	hook & line, otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	fillets ashore; fresh & frozen	3	3
		Recreational	3,192	821					
Scup	x	Commercial	8,107	710					
		Recreational	2,320	745					
Black Sea Bass	x	Commercial	1,027	750					
		Recreational	1,260	802					
Tilefish	C	Golden Tilefish	776	2,012	longline, hook & line	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	1	
Atlantic Bluefish	x	Commercial	1,866	2,561	hook & line; otter trawl; gillnet	FMP area/year round	fillets fresh/frozen	1	3
	x	Recreational	7,127	850					
Spiny Dogfish	C	Commercial	7,300	2,571	gillnet; trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	5	1

Commercial fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Northeast Region and are based on information in the Region's data base as of December 2013. Recreational fisheries information was obtained from the Office of Science and Technology at http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/commercial/fus/fus12/03_recreational2012.pdf and are based on the results of the 2012 Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2013	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2013	
								Comm.	Rec.
Golden Crab	C	Golden Crab	286	11	traps	FMP area/ year-round	Fresh		
Snapper/Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic	X	Commercial ² Groupers Wreckfish Snappers Other species Recreational ^{2,5} Groupers Snappers Other Species	359 Confidential 1,134 1,777 175 1,217 3,409	3,468 3,784 (for-hire)	rod and reel, bandit gear, longline, handline handline, rod and reel, bandit gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area/ prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau grouper and Goliath grouper year-round ² FMP area	at sea, gutted	4	4
Penaeid Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial All Recreational ⁵ White	6,168 n/a ³	615 (penaeid) 258 (rock) n/a ³	trawls n/a ³	FMP area/ year-round	shore-side processing		
Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial-Octocoral ⁴ (2013 landings) Recreational ⁵	36,622 (10,621 Fed, 26,001 State) colonies n/a ⁴	73 n/a ⁴	hand harvest	south FL/ year-round	Fresh		
Gulf of Mexico Spiny Lobster [Jointly managed with GMFMC]									
Coastal Migratory pelagics [Jointly managed with GMFMC]								4	4

1 Number of vessels with active permits for 2013.

2 Commercial and recreational sector for shallow water groupers closed during January-April. Commercial fishery for red porgy closed during January-April. Commercial fishery for greater amberjack closed during April. Fishing prohibited year-round in Oculina HAPC.

3 Not applicable (No recreational fishery in the EEZ).

4 Octocoral landings and number of persons harvesting octocoral provided by State of Florida. Federal permits are not required for octocoral harvest.

5 Recreational landings include Marine Recreational Information Program and Headboat survey data.

Sources: Commercial landings information was obtained from the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) datasets produced by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL, and from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates were obtained from the SEFSC ACL datasets and include MRFSS and headboat landings data. NMFS Southeast Region, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2013.

A-iv GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (GMFMC)

A-iv GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (GMFMC)	Type	Fishery/Species, Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2013	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2013	
								Comm.	Rec.
Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	R	Commercial - Red Drum Recreational	20 8,953 ⁵	n/a ⁶ n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶ n/a ⁶	EEZ Closed n/a ⁶ EEZ Closed n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶ n/a ⁶	4	4
Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	X	Commercial Grouper Red Snapper Other snapper Other species ⁷ Recreational Grouper Red Snapper Other snappers Other species ⁷	2,885 2,465 1,117 481 1,997 4,377 1,465 1,321	1,031 (reef fish) 425 (red snapper) ⁸ n/a ³ (1,367 for-hire vessel permits)	longline, handline, bandit gear, rod and reel, buoy gear, spear, powerhead spear, powerhead, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, cast net	FMP area/ year round ⁹ FMP area/ year round ^{4,9}	at-sea, gutted; shore-side processing	4	4
Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial-All Recreational	57,651 n/a ³	1,877 n/a ³	trawl, butterfly net, skimmer, cast net trawl	FMP area/ year round; annual TX closure; seasonal FL closure FMP area/ year round	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1	
Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	C	Commercial ¹⁰ Recreational ¹⁰	1,843 707 ²	650 commercial 345 tailing FL: n/a ² n/a ³	trap, pot, dip net, bully net, hoop net, trawl, snare, hand harvest dip net, bully net, pot, trap, snare, hand harvest	Florida/ Aug-Apr FL / 2-day sport-season in July, Aug-Apr	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1	
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	X	Commercial King mackerel Spanish mackerel Recreational King mackerel Spanish mackerel	1,917 1,915 1,955 2,512	1,525 2,180 n/a ³ n/a ³ (1,387 Gulf for-hire vessels) (1,803 south Atlantic for-hire vessels)	gillnets, longline, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, purse net bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, spear	Gulf & South Atlantic: Year round, commercial closures when quotas are reached	At-sea, gutted, Shore-side processing	4	4

¹ Number of vessels with active permits for 2013.

² Data from state of Florida.

³ Not Available (no federal permit or reporting requirements, except for-hire vessels).

⁴ Recreational fishery for red snapper in 2013 was closed from January 1 to June 1, June 29 to October 1, and from October 15 through December 31.

⁵ State landings only.

⁶ Not applicable (fishery closed in federal waters).

⁷ Includes greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, almaco jack, banded rudderfish, gray triggerfish, tilefishes, and hogfish.

⁸ Individual Fishing Quotas Program shareholders at the end of 2013.

9 Bottom fishing prohibited year-round on Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps; the Edges is closed to all fishing January through April. Recreational fishery for red grouper, black grouper, yellowfin grouper, scamp, and yellowmouth grouper is closed February 1 to March 31 beyond the 20-fathom break. Recreational fishery for gag is closed from January 1st to June 30th.

10 Data from 2012-2013 fishing season.

11 Recreational landings include Marine Recreational Information Program, Headboat survey, Louisiana survey, and Texas Parks and Wildlife survey data.

Sources: Commercial landings information was obtained from the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) datasets produced by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL, and from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates were obtained from the SEFSC ACL datasets and include MRFSS and headboat landings data. NMFS Southeast Region, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2013

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2013	Vessel permits ⁹	Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2014	
							Comm.	Rec.
Spiny Lobster	Commercial	157 ⁹ (PR) 65 (USVI)	n/a	trap/pot, dip net gillnet, snare	year-round	fresh, landed whole		
	Recreational	n/a ³	n/a	dip net, trap, pot	year-round			
Reef Fish (snappers, groupers, other reef species)	Commercial	491 ⁹ (PR) 224 (USVI)	n/a	longline, hook and line, trap, pot,	area closures ¹² , seasonal closures for numerous snappers and groupers; prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau and Goliath groupers	gutted at-sea, shore-side processing	1	2
	Recreational	16 ¹⁰ (PR) n/a ¹¹ (USVI)	n/a	dip net, handline, rod and reel, slurp gun, spear				
Coral Reef Resources	Commercial Stony Corals Gorgonians Live Rock Other Invertebrates Algae Seagrasses	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest	year-round	live, fresh		
	Recreational	n/a ³	n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest				
Queen Conch	Commercial	168 ⁹ (PR) 10 (USVI)	n/a	hand harvest (no hooka)	closed year round (no harvest) in EEZ except east of St. Croix (portion of Lang Bank) where it is closed seasonally each year July through September	live, landed whole in shell, shore-side processing		
	Recreational	n/a ³	n/a	hand harvest (no hooka)				

⁹ Not applicable (no permits required).

¹⁰ Recreational landings only for Puerto Rico and are collected by the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

¹¹ Not available. Recreational landings in USVI are not collected.

¹² Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gill nets, and trammel nets is prohibited year-round at Grammanik Bank and at various mutton snapper and red hind spawning aggregation sites. Fishing for any species is prohibited year-round within Hind Bank Marine Conservation District.

⁵ Puerto Rico commercial landings for 2012 were provided because commercial landings data for 2013 are not complete at this time.

Sources: Puerto Rican and USVI Commercial landings were obtained from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami. Puerto Rico commercial landings are from the Accumulated Landings System at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL.

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	2013 Landings (salmon in # of fish, others in metric tons)	2013 Permits (Vessels) & Angler Trips	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2014*	
								Comm.	Rec.
Ocean Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California ²	X	Commercial Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Recreational Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon	502,557 54,195 366 172,591 61,077 7,668	CA Troll 1,150 OR Troll 963 WA Troll 157 310,099 Angler Trips	Troll; hook and line,	WA, OR & CA/ variable dates by area	headed & gutted; fillets; fresh & frozen	3	3
Pacific Coast Groundfish ¹	X	Pacific whiting Flatfish Rockfish Other groundfish Recreational Groundfish	233,000 13,317 4,999 5,804 1,764	Limited Entry: 284 vessels registered to a LE permit Open Access: (765 vessels landed groundfish) 867,000 Boat Based Trips targeting groundfish	trawl; hook & line; pots; set nets	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	headed & gutted; fillets; surimi; fresh & frozen	3	3
Coastal Pelagic Species ³	C	Pacific sardine Pacific mackerel Jack mackerel Market squid Northern Anchovy	63,474 8,510 1,083 104,404 5,994	Federal Limited Entry south of Point Arena - 64 State Limited Entry north of Point Area- 30	purse seine	CA - year round OR and WA - summer	human consumption bait meal and oil	1	
Highly Migratory Species ⁴	X	Northern albacore Other tunas Swordfish Sharks	12,936 17 533 97	2007	Surface hook-and line Coastal purse seine Harpoon Drift gillnet High Seas longline	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	Fresh, frozen, canned Human consumption		4

1/ Pacific Coast groundfish fishery data was extracted directly from the PacFin data system (commercial), and RecFIN data system (recreational).

2/ "Review of 2008 Ocean Salmon Fisheries:" (February 2009; Pacific Fishery Management Council).

3/ Estimates from PacFIN.

4/ Landings estimates from PacFIN (December 2014); Permits from 2014 HMS SAFE.

A-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Tonnage (metric tons)*	Fishermen & Crew**	Gear	Fishing Areas and Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2014****	
								Comm.	Rec.
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA)	C	Pollock	93,733	1,276 Federal	trawl; pot;	area/time closures	hand & machine	4	
		Pacific cod	52,156	Fishing permits	hook & line; jig	adjusted in season	fillet;		
		Flatfish	33,907				headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal &		
		Rockfish	24,715	1,110 LLP permits			oil		
		Sablefish	11,947			LLP permits have gear and area endorsements			
		Atka mackerel	1,277						
		Misc. species	11,073						
Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)	C	Pollock	1,273,766	589 Federal	trawl; pot;	area/time closures	hand & machine	4	
		Pacific cod	245,481	fishing permits	hook & line; jig	adjusted in season	fillet;		
		Flatfish	273,661				headed/gutted;		
		Rockfish	34,940	506 LLP permits			frozen; minced; meal &		
		Sablefish	1,697			LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	oil		
		Atka mackerel	23,181						
		Misc. species	33,506						
Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the BSAI	C	King Crab		502 Quota Share holders for IFQ crab	Pot	Deferred to State; generally November and winter months;	cooked;	3	
		Red king crab	3,901	347 LLP permits			refrigerated;		
		Golden king crab	150				frozen		
		St. Matt.Blue King Crab	closed			LLP permits have fishery endorsements for minor crab species.			
		Tanner Crab							
		<u>C. opilio</u> (snow)	24,487						
		<u>C. bairdi</u>	1,261						

Salmon fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent state waters	C	Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Sockeye salmon Chum salmon	869 6,012 1,024 11 3,810	1,089 permits fished	troll***	Deferred to State; generally West area is closed; southeast area time area limits.	fresh; gutted & gilled; glazed; frozen; canned; smoked		1
Scallop Fishery off Alaska	C	Weathervane scallops (no directed fisheries occur for other scallop species listed in the FMP)	197	9 LLP permits	Dredges	Deferred to State; Time and area openings are adjusted inseason	hand shucked and frozen or iced		

\$ In addition to these five FMPs, the NPFMC also is responsible for developing regulations governing Pacific halibut fisheries in and off of Alaska under authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act). These regulations, which are in addition to and not in conflict with regulations adopted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, primarily allocate halibut fishing privileges among U.S. fishermen. Although the NPFMC develops halibut management regulations according to principles of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, no halibut FMP exists because the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not apply to management of the Pacific halibut fisheries. In 2014, the commercial fishing season for halibut in and off Alaska runs from March 8 through November 7. The total commercial catch of halibut under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Programs through November 7, 2014 was 7154 mt, net weight, about 99 percent of the available quota. At that date, about 82 mt of Pacific halibut remained. For Pacific halibut, 2584 persons held IFQ Quota Share as of December 2014.

* 2013 salmon catch data are from the State of Alaska. These data represent only the southeast AK hand and power troll fisheries that are governed by the Salmon FMP and managed as one fishery, inside and outside State waters by the State of Alaska. The catch data for the BSAI crab fisheries are from the BSAI Crab Rationalization Program Report for Fishing Year 2013/2014 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014), prepared by the Alaska Region, NMFS. Alaska scallop fishery catch data for the 2012/2013 season (July 1, 2013 to February 2014) are from the State of Alaska. All other catch data are from the Alaska Region, NMFS, and reflect catch reports through December 24, 2011. NMFS catch data include retained and discarded catch amounts. Miscellaneous groundfish species includes squid, skates, sharks, octopus, and sculpin.

**Data represent persons or vessels permitted to harvest fish, not the number of individuals actually involved in the operation of vessels, catching and processing fish. The number of permits actually used to harvest fish is fewer than that indicated by the data. Participation in all FMP fisheries is governed by some form of limited access system. License Limitation Programs (LLP), initially effective in 2000, apply to all fisheries except crab fisheries brought under a new IFQ system in 2005, salmon (which is governed by the State of Alaska limited entry system), demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast Gulf of Alaska, IFQ sablefish, and IFQ and CDQ halibut fisheries. In 2005, a new IFQ program replaced the LLP license requirement for most BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries. A total of 490 distinct persons were initially issued one or more types of harvesting quota share for eight crab fisheries (managed as nine fisheries starting July 1, 2007); in the 2013/2014 crab year most IFQ crab was assigned to cooperatives; 132 distinct Hired Masters fished IFQ for 10 active permit holders (counting cooperatives, not members). Some LLP crab licenses were re-issued to authorize fishing not managed under the IFQ system. Of the approximate total 2,182 current LLP permits, most (1,835) authorized fishing for groundfish in the BSAI or GOA or both, and 347 still authorized fishing for BSAI crab species not under crab rationalization management; the remaining 9 were for scallop harvest. A number of permits were "interim" and will be revoked following final adjudication of claims.

Also, a total of 819 persons held QS to harvest sablefish as of December 2014, with fixed gear in the GOA and BSAI under the IFQ Program. The salmon permit data are from the State of Alaska and represent the number of individual permits fished in 2013.

***Troll gear is the gear authorized to be used in the EEZ under the salmon FMP, however, other gear types such as gill nets and purse seines are authorized in other areas of the State to harvest salmon.

**** Columns not completed. In many cases, overlapping interests exist and defining the specific degree of Council representation on a specific FMP cannot be conclusively determined.

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2013 ¹	Vessels (permits) ²	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2013	
								Comm.	Rec.
Hawaii Archipelago (including Midway Atoll)	C/R	Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish	209(C) 268(R) ³	610 (C) Est. 313 (R)	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except: a. Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) upon reaching annual catch limit b. Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) (closed) c. Hancock Seamounts (closed until pelagic armorhead is rebuilt)	fresh fish market	1	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, Kona crab, deep-water shrimp	35	1 lobster 4 shrimp	traps hand	FEP Area/year round, except: a. NWHI (closed) b. MHI: (closed 5/1 - 8/31)	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	1	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except NWHI where fishery is closed.	shaped/ polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	485 (C) 574 (R) ³	0	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurpgun, spear	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Mariana Archipelago (CNMI & Guam)	C/R	Bottomfish	2 (CNMI) 8 (Guam)	5 (CNMI) 2 (Guam)	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish market	1	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	No data(CNMI) >1(Guam)	0 (CNMI) 0 (Guam)	traps hand	FEP Area/year round	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round	shaped/ polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	19 (CNMI) 28 (Guam)	0	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurpgun, spear	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish and aquarium markets		

American Samoa	C/R	Bottomfish	15	No permits required	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closure within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	fresh fish market	0	1
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	1	0	traps hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closure within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	shaped/ polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	24	0	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurpgun, spear	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Pacific Remote Island Areas (Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands, Kingman Reef, and Wake and Palmyra Atolls)	C/R	Bottomfish	0	1	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	fresh fish market	0	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	0	0	traps hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	shaped/ polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	0	0	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurpgun, spear	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Pelagic	C/R	Commercial - Tunas - Swordfish - Other (inc. sharks) - Blue marlin - Mahimahi - Other billfish - Wahoo - Squid Estimated Recreational (all species)	12,474 1,069 1,815 554 798 702 503 2 6,462(R) ³	182 (longline) 5 (troll/handline) 0 (squid) n/a	longline troll/handline squid	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures around the Hawaii, Mariana and American Samoa Archipelagos	fresh fish market whole frozen for canery	0	1

¹ Landing information was obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network databases at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/wpacfin> (accessed on December 3, 2014), and is primarily comprised of domestic commercial landings, but includes non-commercial (recreational and subsistence) landing. ² Vessel information was obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Region Sustainable Fisheries Permits Program, except for Hawaii bottomfish and seamount groundfish, which is based on State of Hawaii commercial marine license and bottomfish vessel registration programs. ³ Where noted, recreational (R) fisheries landing information was obtained from NMFS Office of Science and Technology at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/queries/index.html> (accessed on December 4, 2014)

SECRETARIAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
A-ix HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

A-ix HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES	TYPE	SPECIES/ SPECIES GROUP	LANDINGS 2013 MT = METRIC TONS WW = WHOLE WEIGHT DW = DRESSED WEIGHT	2014 VESSELS (PERMITS)	GEAR ⁷	FISHING AREAS/SEASONS ⁸	PROCESSING	2013 REPRESENTATIVES ⁹				
								COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL	ACADEMIA/ ENVIROS	FMCs	IAC
Atlantic Billfishes ¹	R	White Marlin; Blue Marlin; Sailfish; Roundscale Spearfish; Longbill Spearfish (prohibited)	79.4 mt ww ² (comm dead discards)	Charter permits ⁵ Recreational permit ⁶	Rod & reel	Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea; Calendar year	Sale prohibited	12	12	8	5	1
			15.9 mt ww ² (rec)									
Atlantic Sharks ¹	X	Commercial/Recreational -Large coastal (11 spp) -Pelagics (5 spp) -Small coastal (4 spp) -Prohibited (19 spp)	Comm ³ 990 mt dw 660 Aggregated LCS 118 Pel 212 SCS	LIMITED ACCESS ⁷ Commercial permits - 206 directed - 258 incidental	Longline; Gillnets; Rod & reel; Handline; Bandit	Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea; Aggregated LCS and SCS regions: Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico; Calendar year	Fins exported; Carcasses/ cartilage to U.S. market	12	12	8	5	1
			Rec ^{3,4} 259.3 136.8 AggregatedLCS 9.4 Pel 113.1 SCS	Charter permits ⁵ Recreational permit ⁶	Rod & reel; Handline		Sale Prohibited					
						Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea; Calendar year						
Atlantic Swordfish ¹	X	Commercial	2,933 mt ww ² (includes discards)	LIMITED ACCESS Commercial permits - 183 directed - 143 incidental/ handgear	Longline; Buoy; Handline; Harpoon; Rod & reel; Bandit; Greenstick; Ottertrawl (incidental)	North and South Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico; Calendar year; North Atlantic directed semi- annual seasons: 1/1-6/30; 7/1- 12/31	Fresh/frozen U.S. market	12	12	8	5	1
		Recreational	22 mt ww ²	Charter permits ⁵ Recreational permit ⁶	Rod & reel; Handline	Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea; Calendar year	Sale prohibited					
Atlantic Tunas ¹	X	Commercial Bluefin Yellowfin Bigeye Albacore Skipjack	2,969.4 mt ww ² 527.5 1,644.4 535.9 259 2.6	Commercial permits - 246 Longline - 3,396 General - 14 Harpoon - 3 Trap - 3 Purse Seine (VTQ) Charter permits ⁵	Rod & reel; Purse seine; Bandit gear; Longline; Handline; Harpoon; Trap; Greenstick	Northwest Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico (No Directed Fishing for Bluefin Tuna), and Caribbean Sea; Calendar year	Bluefin: fresh foreign and U.S. market. Other tunas: fresh/canned foreign and U.S. market	12	12	8	5	1
		Recreational Bluefin Yellowfin Bigeye Albacore Skipjack	1,618.2 mt ww ² 131.4 687.2 344.5 340.3 114.8	Recreational permit ⁶	Rod & reel; Handline; Speargun (non- bluefin tuna)		Sale prohibited					

1. 2006 Final Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan.

2. Source: 2014 U.S. National Report submitted to ICCAT. Includes rod and reel recreational landings from the Caribbean

3. Source: 2014 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species.

4. Number of fish in thousands (not mt).
5. 3,742 Charter/headboat permits issued as of October, 2014. Required for all tuna, swordfish, shark, and billfish fishing. These permits are considered commercial.
6. 20,239 recreational angling permits issued as of October, 2014. Required for all tuna, swordfish, shark, and billfish recreational fishing.
7. Certain gear types may have restrictions, including time/area closures and gear modifications.
8. Seasons may close when quota is reached.
9. HMS Advisory Panel includes representatives of commercial and recreational fishing groups, academic, and environmental organizations, and one each from the U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee, Atlantic and Gulf states, and the New England, Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils. The numbers for tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks are not additive.